

BEFORE THE KANSAS COMMISSION ON PEACE OFFICERS' STANDARDS AND TRAINING

1999 N. AMIDON, SUITE 350 • WICHITA, KANSAS 67203 Tel (316) 832-9906 • Fax (316) 832-9679

In the Matter of)		
KELLY CORDOVA #32883)))	Case No.	2023-0032

SUMMARY ORDER OF REVOCATION

Pursuant to K.S.A. 77-537

The above-captioned matter comes on for Commission action through a summary proceeding under the Kansas Administrative Procedures Act, K.S.A. 77-537, regarding the law enforcement certification of KELLY CORDOVA (Respondent).

STATEMENT OF FACTS

- 1. The Kansas Commission on Peace Officers' Standards and Training (Commission) granted full-time certification to Respondent, certification number 32883.
- 2. Respondent was employed as a full-time law enforcement officer with the Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office (SCSO) from August 16, 2021, to February 21, 2023.
- 3. E.B., a civilian employee of the SCSO, confided to another employee that she had sexual relations with several SCSO deputies, some of whom were on duty at the time. E.B. identified Respondent as one of the deputies with whom she had engaged in sexual intercourse, although it was unclear to the other employee whether Respondent was on duty when the sexual encounter occurred. The SCSO opened a professional standards investigation regarding the allegations.

- 4. On January 9, 2023, Respondent was interviewed about his relationship with E.B. Respondent admitted to having sexual intercourse with E.B. on two occasions. The first incident took place at a hotel when Respondent was off duty. Respondent stated that he had a second sexual encounter with E.B. about a week after the first and again claimed it occurred while he was off duty, on days off, and not in uniform. However, Respondent claimed he could not recall specific details about the second occurrence, including where it took place. Respondent had previously been reprimanded for Unbecoming Conduct for having sex on duty, resulting in a five-day suspension.
- 5. The SCSO found Respondent's answers during the professional standards interview on January 9, 2023, to be suspicious and scheduled him for a polygraph examination on January 12. The polygraph examination determined that Respondent showed significant signs of deception in reference to having sexual relations with E.B. while on duty, and a follow-up interview was conducted. Respondent provided additional information during the follow-up interview, some of which conflicted with his initial responses in the January 9 interview. Respondent stated that he had recalled more about the second sexual interaction with E.B. He stated that he had just gotten off work, he was still in his uniform, that it occurred in the parking lot of Academy Sports at approximately 8:00 a.m., and that he engaged in sexual intercourse with E.B. in her vehicle while he was still in uniform.
- 6. The SCSO determined that Respondent gave a false statement during a professional standards investigation. Further, the District Attorney of the Eighteenth Judicial District determined that the results of the investigation uncovered discoverable impeachment information that Respondent provided false statements during an official investigation, and, as such, relevant defense counsel would be required to be notified pursuant to Brady/Giglio. The SCSO determined that the Brady/Giglio designation has resulted in Respondent being unable to provide credible testimony in a court of law.
- 7. On August 31, 2023, Commission Investigator George Brown conducted an interview with Respondent. During the interview, Respondent initially denied having sex with E.B. during the second encounter in the Academy Sports parking lot, stating that they "hung

out...we talked." However, Investigator Brown confronted Respondent with the fact that he had told the SCSO that he had sex with E.B. in uniform in her car in the parking lot. Investigator Brown asked Respondent if that was correct, to which he responded, "Yes, sir." Respondent elaborated, "There was sexual stuff that happened, and I was in uniform."

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW.

Criminal Conduct

- 8. Pursuant to K.S.A. 74-5616(b)(5), the Commission may revoke the certification of any police or law enforcement officer who engages in conduct which, if charged as a crime, would constitute a felony crime under the laws of this state, a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence as defined in the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Act at the time the conduct occurred, or a misdemeanor crime that the Commission determines reflects on the honesty, trustworthiness, integrity or competence of the applicant as defined by rules and regulations of the Commission.
- 9. K.A.R. 106-2-2a(a)(13) states that, pursuant to K.S.A. 74-5616, and amendments thereto, an applicant or officer shall not engage in conduct, whether or not charged as a crime or resulting in a conviction, that would constitute lewd and lascivious behavior, as defined in K.S.A. 21-5513, and amendments thereto.
- 10. Pursuant to K.S.A. 21-5513(a)(1), lewd and lascivious behavior is publicly engaging in otherwise lawful sexual intercourse or sodomy with knowledge or reasonable anticipation that the participants are being viewed by others.
- 11. Respondent's conduct constitutes a misdemeanor crime that the Commission determines reflects on the honesty, trustworthiness, integrity, or competence of the applicant as defined by rules and regulations of the Commission. Respondent engaged in sexual intercourse with E.B. in her vehicle in the Academy Sports parking lot at 8:00 a.m. By doing so, Respondent had knowledge or reasonable anticipation of being viewed by others. Respondent's conduct of engaging in sexual intercourse or sodomy in public constitutes lewd and lascivious behavior.

12. <u>In the alternative</u>, if Respondent were to now claim that he did not engage in lewd and lascivious behavior with E.B. in her vehicle in the Academy Sports parking lot, Respondent would have violated K.S.A. 74-5616(b)(7), K.A.R. 106-2-3(j)(1) by intentionally using a false statement to the SCSO in any official document or official communication. Further, Respondent's statement to Commission Investigator Brown would constitute a violation of K.S.A. 74-5616(b)(3), by intentionally providing false information in a Commission investigation to determine a person's continued suitability for law enforcement certification.

Good Moral Character

- 13. Pursuant to K.S.A. 74-5616(b)(1) the Commission may revoke the certification of a police or law enforcement officer who fails to meet and maintain the requirements of K.S.A. 74-5605 or 74-5607a, and amendments thereto.
- 14. K.S.A. 74-5605(b)(5) states that each applicant for certification shall be of good moral character sufficient to warrant the public trust in the applicant as a police officer or law enforcement officer.
- 15. K.A.R. 106-2-4(a) defines good moral character as including the personal traits or qualities of integrity, honesty, upholding the laws of the state and nation, conduct that warrants the public trust, and upholding the oath required for certification as specified in K.A.R. 106-3-6.
- 16. Pursuant to K.A.R. 106-2-4(b), any single incident or event may suffice to show that a licensee lacks or has failed to maintain good moral character.
- 17. Respondent's conduct shows that he has failed to maintain good moral character sufficient to warrant the public trust in him as a law enforcement officer.

Summary Proceedings

18. Under K.S.A. 77-537, the Commission may conduct these summary proceedings, subject to Respondent's request for a hearing. The Commission finds that the use of summary proceedings in these circumstances does not violate any provisions of law and the protection of the public interest does not require the Commission to give notice and opportunity to participate to any person other than Respondent.

ORDER

Based on the above Statement of Facts and Conclusions of Law, the Commission orders that the Kansas Law Enforcement Officer Certification of KELLY CORDOVA be revoked.

ACCORDINGLY, THE KANSAS COMMISSION ON PEACE OFFICERS'
STANDARDS AND TRAINING CERTIFICATE OF KELLY CORDOVA IS HEREBY
REVOKED.

FURTHER, Respondent is ordered to surrender and return to the Commission all evidence of his certification as a law enforcement officer.

DATED this day of ______, 2023.4

KANSAS COMMISSION ON PEACE OFFICERS' STANDARDS AND TRAINING

Jeff Herrig

Chair, Investigative Committee

NOTICE OF RELIEF FROM THIS SUMMARY ORDER

Pursuant to K.S.A. 77-537, the Summary Order is subject to your request for a hearing. If you desire a hearing, you must direct a written request for a hearing to the Kansas Commission on Peace Officers' Standards and Training, 1999 N. Amidon, Suite 350, Wichita, Kansas 67203. This written request must be filed within fifteen (15) days from the date indicated in the Certificate of Service below. If a written request for hearing is not so made, this Summary Order becomes final and effective upon the expiration of the time for requesting a hearing.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

This is to certify that on the Loth day of January, 2024, a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing Summary Order of Revocation was deposited in the United States mail, with tracking, postage prepaid, addressed to:

KELLY CORDOVA

Kansas Commission on Peace Officers'

Standards and Training