

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
PEACE OFFICER STANDARDS AND TRAINING COMMISSION**

In the Matter of) Case No. SU-2024-011
William Castro)
(MPTC User ID No. 9997-7633))

ORDER OF SUSPENSION

The Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission (“Commission”) hereby provides notice of the suspension of the law enforcement certification of Respondent William Castro, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 6E, §§ 9(a)(4) and 555 CMR 1.06(2). The Commission received sufficient evidence that the Respondent engaged in a motor-vehicle pursuit in violation of the policies of the Lawrence Police Department, that he was untruthful in his subsequent written report regarding that pursuit, and that he and/or his appointing authority failed to independently investigate whether there was a policy violation or report the same to the Commission. Also, credible reports to the Commission have called into question the Respondent’s hiring and certification practices concerning certain candidates for employment as law enforcement officers for the Lawrence Police Department. The Commission finds by a preponderance of the evidence that suspension of the Respondent’s certification is warranted and is in the best interest of the safety and welfare of the public. See M.G.L. c. 6E, § 9(a)(4); 555 CMR 1.06(2).

The Respondent’s suspension is effective immediately upon receipt of this letter by the Respondent or its receipt by the head of the Respondent’s law enforcement agency, whichever is earlier. See M.G.L. c. 6E, § 10(e); 555 CMR 1.08(3). Pursuant to 555 CMR 9.12(8), “[a]n individual whose certification is suspended” “may not execute any type of arrest, as that term is defined in 555 CMR 9.02(2), or otherwise perform police duties and functions.” The Respondent and the agency must ensure that the Respondent surrenders, without delay, any agency-issued credentials and equipment that promote and support the performance of functions associated with service as a law enforcement officer, including but not limited to, any uniform, badge, firearm, assigned cruiser, and use-of-force instruments, such as tasers. See M.G.L. c. 6E, § 3(a); 501 CMR 15.05(1), (2)(f)-(g).

Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 6E, § 9(a)(5), “[a] suspension order of the [C]ommission issued pursuant to [Section 9(a)] shall continue in effect until issuance of the final decision of the [C]ommission or until revoked by the [C]ommission.” See 555 CMR 1.06(3).

By vote of the Commission on March 21, 2024.

Notice to: William Castro, Respondent
Timothy D. Hartnett, Commission Enforcement Counsel
Lawrence Police Department
Collective Bargaining Unit
Essex County District Attorney’s Office

Notice of Right to a Suspension Hearing

You may request a hearing before:

- (1) The Single Commissioner to stay the suspension. See M.G.L. c. 6E, § 9(d); 555 CMR 1.09(1).
 - Absent a waiver, such a hearing would be held within 15 days of the effective date of the suspension.
 - Requests must be filed no later than five days after the effective date of the suspension and may include a request for an extension of time or a waiver of the right to have the hearing heard by the Single Commissioner within 15 days. See 555 CMR 1.09(2) and (3).
 - If the Single Commissioner determines by a preponderance of the evidence that the suspension is not warranted, that commissioner shall stay the suspension. See 555 CMR 1.09(6)(a).
 - Appeals of the Single Commissioner's decision are to the Superior Court. See M.G.L. c. 30A, § 14; 555 CMR 1.09(6)(d).

- (2) The full Commission to revoke the suspension before the issuance of a final Commission decision. See M.G.L. c. 6E, § 9(a)(5).
 - Requests are not subject to a time limit for filing. See generally M.G.L. c. 6E; 555 CMR 1.00.
 - A suspension order shall continue in effect until issuance of the final decision of the full Commission or until revoked by the full Commission. See also 555 CMR 1.08(4).
 - Appeals of the full Commission's decision are to the Superior Court. See M.G.L. c. 30A, § 14; 555 CMR 1.10.

If you wish to request a hearing, please email your request to POSTCReview@mass.gov, and include in the subject line your case name and number and type of hearing (full Commission or Single Commissioner). In your request, also include:

- (a) Your name;
- (b) Your employing agency as of the date of the Complaint (or Criminal Complaint/Indictment);
- (c) The head of the agency you identified in (b), above;
- (d) Your mailing and email addresses;
- (e) Your phone number;
- (f) If one has been assigned, your Commission identification number;
- (g) If applicable, your attorney/representative's name;
- (h) If applicable, your attorney/representative's email address and phone number;
- (i) A brief description of the basis for the request for the hearing; and
- (j) One of the following statements:

If this is an appeal to the Single Commissioner (stay of suspension):

- I invoke my right to a hearing within 15 days of the effective date of the suspension.
- I waive my right to a hearing within 15 days of the effective date of the suspension and consent to receiving a hearing after 15 days.

If this is an appeal to the full Commission (revocation of suspension):

- I would like to have a hearing before the full Commission at a date to be determined.

A request for a hearing is deemed filed on the date it is received by the Commission. After you have filed a timely request for a hearing, you will receive a notice from the Commission containing further information and instructions.