

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

In the Matter of)
Dominique Padilla)

Case No. [REDACTED]

DECERTIFICATION ORDER

The Respondent Dominique Padilla has entered into a Voluntary Decertification Agreement (“Agreement”) under which he has agreed to the permanent revocation of his certification (also known as decertification) as a law enforcement officer in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, beginning on the date of approval of the Agreement by the Massachusetts Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission (“Commission”), and the entry of his decertification in the National Decertification Index (“NDI”). See M.G.L. c. 6E, §§ 3(a), 10(b)(iii), and 10(g); M.G.L. c. 30A, §§ 10 and 13. As further conditions of the Agreement, the Respondent has waived all rights to contest, in this or any other administrative or judicial proceeding to which the Commission is or may be a party, the factual findings, conclusions of law, terms and conditions, and other provisions contained in the Agreement.

Accordingly, it is hereby ORDERED that, for the reasons stated in the Agreement:

- (a) The Respondent’s certification is hereby permanently revoked;
- (b) The Executive Director shall characterize this action as a “Voluntary Decertification”; and
- (c) The Executive Director shall take the necessary steps to publish the Respondent’s name in the NDI and any publicly available lists and database published by the Commission.

By vote of the Commission on September 24, 2024.

Margaret R. Hinkle

Hon. Margaret R. Hinkle (Ret.), Chair

Notice: Dominique Padilla, Respondent
Timothy D. Hartnett, Esq., Commission Enforcement Counsel
Holyoke Police Department, Agency
Collective Bargaining Unit
Hampden County District Attorney’s Office

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
PEACE OFFICER STANDARDS AND TRAINING COMMISSION

_____))
)) Commission Adjudicatory
IN THE MATTER OF)) Case No. [REDACTED]
DOMINQUE PADILLA))
(MPTC ID: 6141-1013)))
_____)

VOLUNTARY DECERTIFICATION AGREEMENT

In the interest of resolving the above-captioned matter and consistent with the public interest and laws and regulations governing the Massachusetts Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission (“Commission”), including G.L. c. 6E §§ 3(a), 8, and 10, and 555 C.M.R. §§ 1.01–1.10, the Respondent, Dominique Padilla, and the Commission hereby enter into this Voluntary Decertification Agreement:

Factual Findings

1. The Respondent was employed as a police officer for the City of Holyoke, Massachusetts, from approximately February 16, 2018, until June 30, 2023.
2. On July 1, 2021, the Respondent was automatically certified as a police officer in Massachusetts pursuant to St. 2020, c. 253, § 102, an Act Relative to Justice, Equity and Accountability in Law Enforcement in the Commonwealth. The Respondent remained certified as a law enforcement officer until his certification expired on July 1, 2023, pursuant to St. 2020, c. 253, § 102(d)(ii).
3. It is alleged that on numerous occasions in 2019 through 2022, the Respondent, while on duty as a Holyoke Police Department (“HPD”) police officer and using HPD resources, conducted searches of Registry of Motor Vehicle (“RMV”) and Criminal Justice Information Systems (“CJIS”) databases relating to his estranged wife without an official law enforcement purpose.
4. It is alleged that on numerous occasions in 2019 through 2022, the Respondent, while on duty as an HPD police officer and using HPD resources, conducted searches of RMV and CJIS databases relating to friends and family of his estranged wife without an official law enforcement purpose.

5. It is alleged that on numerous occasions in 2019 through 2022, the Respondent disclosed confidential third-party RMV data, CJIS data, and Criminal Offender Record Information (“CORI”), to his estranged wife without an official law enforcement purpose.

6. It is alleged that on or about October 26, 2020, the Respondent mishandled confidential information when, while on duty as an HPD police officer and using an HPD computer, he accessed crime scene photos that included photos of a decomposed body, and then, despite knowing that his wife regularly accessed information on his personal cell phone, he used that phone to take photos of the computer screen displaying the crime scene photos.

7. On or about March 22, 2023, the HPD sustained the allegations described in paragraphs 3 through 6 above.

8. On or about May 4, 2023, the Respondent submitted his resignation from the HPD, effective June 30, 2023.

9. On February 15, 2024, the Commission, pursuant to 555 C.M.R. §§ 1.02(2) and (4), authorized the Division to conduct a preliminary inquiry into the allegations of misconduct against the Respondent described in paragraphs 3 through 6 above. On June 12, 2024, the Division submitted its preliminary inquiry report to the Commission. Subsequently, on June 20, 2024, the Commission voted to initiate disciplinary proceedings against the Respondent.

Conclusions of Law

10. Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 6E § 3(a):

The [C]ommission shall have all powers necessary or convenient to carry out and effectuate its purposes, including, but not limited to, the power to:

- (1) act as the primary civil enforcement agency for violations of [chapter 6E]; . . .
- (4) deny an application or limit, condition, restrict, revoke or suspend a certification, or fine a person certified for any cause that the commission deems reasonable; . . .
- (23) restrict, suspend or revoke certifications issued under [chapter 6E];
- (24) conduct adjudicatory proceedings in accordance with chapter 30A; . . .

11. Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 6E, § 10(b)(iii), “[t]he [C]ommission may [...] suspend or revoke an officer’s certification if the [C]ommission finds by clear and convincing evidence that the officer [...] has a pattern of unprofessional police conduct that [the] [C]ommission believes may escalate.”

12. Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 6E, § 10(g), “[t]he [C]ommission shall publish any revocation order and findings. The [C]ommission shall provide all revocation information to the national decertification index. No officer may apply for certification after that officer’s certification has been revoked pursuant to this section.”

13. Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 6E § 10(h), the Commission may institute a disciplinary hearing after an officer's appointing agency has issued a final disposition the alleged misconduct or one year has elapsed since the allegations were reported to the Commission, whichever is sooner.

14. "Unless otherwise provided by law, agencies may . . . make informal disposition of any adjudicatory proceeding by stipulation, agreed settlement, consent order or default." M.G.L. c. 30A § 10.

15. The Respondent's alleged conduct described above paragraphs 3 through 6 above, constitute a pattern of police misconduct that may escalate, and if proven by clear and convincing evidence, would justify discipline against the Respondent pursuant to § 10(b)(iii).

Resolution

In view of the foregoing alleged violations of M.G.L. c. 6E § 10(b)(iii), the Commission has determined that the public interest would best be served by the disposition of this matter without further enforcement proceedings, on the basis of the following terms and conditions which have been agreed to by the Respondent:

16. The Respondent agrees that, if this matter were to proceed to an adjudicatory hearing, the allegations described in paragraphs 3 through 6 above, if proven by clear and convincing evidence, would permit the Commission to impose significant discipline, up to and including his decertification as a law enforcement officer in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

17. The Respondent agrees to the permanent revocation of his law enforcement officer certification in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 6E §§ 3(a) and 10(b)(iii).

18. The Respondent waives all rights to contest the allegations described in paragraphs 3 through 6 above in any administrative or judicial forum to which the Commission is or may be a party.

19. The Respondent waives all rights to contest the factual findings, conclusions of law, terms and conditions, or other provisions contained in this agreement in any administrative or judicial forum to which the Commission is or may be a party.

20. The Respondent acknowledges that, once this Agreement and any Order of Decertification issued by the POST Commission are executed, they will be public documents and will be published on the Commission's website pursuant to M.G.L. c. 6E, § 10(g). Furthermore,

the status of the Respondent's certification will be publicly available on certain lists and databases published by the Commission.

21. The Respondent understands and acknowledges that, as required under G.L. c. 6E § 10(g), the Commission will submit all public revocation information, including a copy of this agreement and any Order of Decertification, for inclusion in the National Decertification Index.

22. This Agreement shall be effective as of the date it is approved by the Commission.

 Sep 12, 2024
Date

 [Handwritten Signature]
Respondent

 9/24/2024
Date

 Margaret R. Hinkle
Margaret R. Hinkle, Chair