Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training
Peace Officer Standards Accountability Division
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West Sacramento, CA 95605
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STATEMENT OF FINDINGS

POST makes the following information available to the public pursuant to Penal Code § 13510.85(c), which establishes that POST shall publish the names of any peace officer whose certification has been suspended or revoked and the basis for the suspension or revocation.

CASE NO.: POST2307981

SUBJECT OFFICER: Stephanie Silva POST ID: C75-D07

EMPLOYING AGENCY: Lodi Police Department

ALLEGED MISCONDUCT: PC § 13510.8(b)(6)/ CCR 1205(a)(6) – Acts That Violate the Law, 13510.8(b)(1)/ CCR 1205(a)(1) – Dishonesty

CASE SUMMARY:

In May 2023, the Lodi Police Department (LPD) submitted a report of potential serious misconduct to POST against former Officer Stephanie Silva, hereinafter "Respondent," alleging that Respondent was dishonest in the course of an internal affairs investigation and engaged in acts that violate the law. Following POST's investigation and review, POST found, by clear and convincing evidence, that reasonable grounds existed for consideration of revocation of the certification of Respondent pursuant to Penal Code §13510.8. The following is a summary of POST's investigative findings:

On December 16, 2021, Respondent and her partner, Officer Daniel, were on duty and responded to a local carwash on a report of an armed carjacking (stealing of a car with person inside) that had just occurred. The suspects were described as Hispanic males wearing masks and were associated with a white Jeep Compass.

On December 17, 2021, based on video surveillance from the carwash, coupled with license plate reading cameras, Officer Daniel identified the license plate of the involved white Jeep. Upon further investigation, it was determined that the license plate was registered to “Suspect 1” who resided in nearby Stockton, Ca. The case was turned over and assigned to the Lodi Police Detective Unit for follow-up.

On December 23, 2021, LPD Detectives obtained a tracker warrant for a GPS tracking device to be placed on Suspect 1’s car for a period of (30) days.

LPD Detectives carefully monitored the movements of Suspect 1's car over the (30) day period and submitted investigative reports on its movement, which were stored in an LPD electronic system of record. However, LPD detectives developed no real leads, and the case was subsequently closed on July 28, 2022.

On August 30, 2022, Stockton PD Detective Gomez was told by a Confidential Informant (CI) that a female Lodi Police Officer provided Suspect 1 with information about a GPS tracker being placed on her car by LPD Detectives. On September 2, 2022, LPD Detectives obtained a search warrant for Suspect 1's cellular telephone, which she shared with her husband or boyfriend, "Suspect 2". Cell phone records revealed a connected voice call that was placed on January 2, 2022, at 1845 hours that lasted for 1 minute and 24 seconds. The connected phone number was discovered to be the Respondent's personal cell phone number. January 2, 2022, was (10) days after the tracking device was placed on Suspect 1Suspect 1's car and 20 days before the device was removed. This was the only contact between the Respondent and Suspect 1's cell phone within the cell phone warrant period from December 1, 2021, through September 1, 2022. LPD system access logs later revealed that this phone call occurred within hours of Respondent accessing detectives' reports on their investigation into the carjacking incident, which included the existence of the GPS tracking device. Additionally, the tracking device's GPS log indicates that the vehicle abruptly stopped moving for a period of 10 days after the phone call took place and Respondent accessed the investigative records.

While investigating this incident, it was learned by LPD Detectives that Respondent's longtime live-in boyfriend was known to associate with documented gang members and was acquainted with Suspect 1 and her husband, Suspect 2. Additionally, Suspect 1's brother and Suspect 2 are documented Sierra Vista Project Norteno gang members. All four have ties to the Sierra Vista Project Norteno gang and have a connection to the Respondent.

In her Internal Affairs interview, the Respondent was vague, evasive, and dishonest, but ultimately admitted to alerting Suspect 1 to the GPS device being placed on her car.

On January 10, 2023, the Respondent was terminated from her position with LPD.

ANALYSIS/FINDINGS:

1. **The alleged misconduct violated Penal Code § 13510.8 (b)(6) and Title 11, California Code of Regulations Section 1205 (a)(6) – Acts That Violate the Law**

Penal Code Section 13510.8(b)(6) and Commission Regulation 1205 (a)(6) defines as serious misconduct: "Acts that violate the law and are sufficiently egregious or repeated as to be

inconsistent with a peace officer's obligation to uphold the law or respect the rights of members of the public."

After a thorough and exhaustive review of this case, the Division has determined that there is clear and convincing evidence that the Respondent acted in an egregious manner by informing a suspect of a violent felony crime that her car was being tracked by a GPS device by Lodi PD Detectives, thereby not only jeopardizing the investigation, but also creating an officer safety issue. The evidence demonstrates that this occurred while the case was still pending. In doing so, the Respondent's conduct was a violation of California Penal Code sections 148(a) and 13518.8(b)(6).

2. The alleged misconduct violated Penal Code § 13510.8 (b)(1) and Title 11, California Code of Regulations Section 1205 (a)(1) – Dishonesty

Throughout her interview with IA Investigators, the Respondent was dishonest, frequently changed substantive answers to questions, had selective recall, was vague and evasive, and had very little memory of the critical facts of this case. One such example was during the Respondent's IA interview where she was asked to confirm her personal cell phone number, which she did. Investigators then asked if she (Respondent) had Suspect 1's and 2's contact information and she replied no. This was dishonest as her subpoenaed cell phone records clearly indicated the Respondent initiated a cell phone call to Suspect 1.

OUTCOME/IMPOSITION OF DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST PEACE OFFICER CERTIFICATION:

The Peace Officer Standards Accountability Division determined that reasonable grounds existed to seek revocation of the Respondent's POST certification in this case. A notice of intent to revoke was served on April 30, 2025. Respondent did not file a request for review within the 30-day response period, pursuant to Penal Code section 13510.85 (a)(2), thus resulting in default revocation of Respondent's certification with no further proceedings. On June 5, 2025, the default order was issued and served on Respondent. Respondent Stephanie Silva's (POST2307981) (POST ID: A54-K74) peace officer certification was revoked on June 5, 2025.