**AGENDA ITEM REPORT**

**Title: POST2306324 - LUKE BAXTER WALDEN (POST ID: A95-T18)**
**LAST EMPLOYING AGENCY: LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT (CURRENT)**

**REPORT PROFILE**

| **MEETING DATE** | **BUREAU SUBMITTING THE REPORT** |
|---|---|
| 12/03/2025 | Professional Conduct Los Angeles Bureau |

| **RESEARCHED BY** | **REVIEWED BY** |
|---|---|
| William Imboden | Mike Radford |

| **REPORT DATE** | **APPROVED BY** | **DATE APPROVED** |
|---|---|---|

| **PURPOSE** | **FINANCIAL IMPACT** |
|---|---|
| | No |

**ISSUE, BACKGROUND, ANALYSIS, & RECOMMENDATION**

**ISSUE:**

The Commission previously heard this matter and referred it back to the Division so that additional documentation and information could be gathered. The Board then heard the matter again on November 6, 2025, and determined to affirm its previous recommendation for revocation. Accordingly, the matter is again before the Commission for review and action regarding the subject peace officer's certification status.

The Commission shall return any determination requiring action to be taken against an individual's certification to the division, which shall initiate proceedings for a formal hearing before an administrative law judge in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act (Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 11500) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code), which shall be subject to judicial review as set forth in that Act.

**BACKGROUND:**

Respondent began his employment with the LAPD on July 6, 1998, as a full-time Peace Officer. On October 07, 2012, Respondent was promoted to the rank of Detective and on June 15, 2014, was promoted to the rank of “Supervisor”. On June 5, 2022, Respondent was demoted back to the rank of Detective.

This position is a peace officer position defined under California Penal Code §830.1(a) and is required to be certified pursuant to California Penal Code §13510.1(a).

This case, which is again before the Commission, alleges the

Respondent, while on-duty, accessed the internet using computers owned by the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) to research threaded barrels for firearms, and firearm silencers and noise suppressors commonly sold as “fuel filters” by Chinese companies. On or about March 17, 2021, Respondent, while off-duty used a computer to purchase a purported automotive fuel filter from a company in China, listing his home address as the mailing address. During the Administrative Investigation into the alleged serious misconduct of “Acts That Violate the Law” (attempting to purchase an illegal firearm silencer, a Felony), the Respondent was found to be dishonest when he stated he did not try to purchase a firearm silencer. These actions constituted Acts that Violate the Law as defined in Commission Regulation 1205(a)(6) and Dishonesty as defined in Commission Regulation 1205(a)(1).

**Audio/Video Evidence Link(s):**

- BR14_POST2306324_Walden Luke_Attachment K IA Interview Redacted.m4a

**ANALYSIS:**

The Division found that the clear and convincing evidence substantiated that Respondent’s actions constitute serious misconduct, specifically, Dishonesty as defined in Commission Regulation 1205(a)(1), and Acts that Violate the Law as described in Commission Regulation Regulation 1205(a)(6), in that Respondent researched threaded barrels for firearms, firearm silencers and noise suppressors commonly sold as “fuel filters” by Chinese companies. On or about March 17, 2021, Respondent, while off-duty used a computer to purchase a purported automotive fuel filter from a company in China, listing his home address as the mailing address. On March 9, 2023, Respondent was held to answer at a preliminary hearing for the felony charge of Attempted Possession of a Silencer. On September 29, 2023, as the result of a plea bargain, Respondent was allowed to plead “No Contest” to the misdemeanor charge of Penal Code sections 664 and 30605(a); Attempt to Possess an Assault Weapon. The Felony charge was only dismissed as part of the plea agreement. During the internal investigation, Respondent was dishonest when he stated he was only purchasing a fuel filter for two vehicles he was rebuilding, neither of which would use a fuel filter like the item that was seized by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP). He further perpetuated this dishonesty by claiming he had ordered other fuel filters for the vehicles, one of which never arrived, and provided a picture of the fuel filter that he had installed in one of the vehicles. The item CBP seized, which was addressed to Respondent at his home

address. The item purchased may be advertised on the internet as a fuel filter (or solvent trap) to otherwise disguise its intended use; as manufactured it is functionally inoperable as a fuel filter (it had no filtering properties), and there are dozens of internet sites discussing and showing how to convert this item into a firearm silencer.

On July 16, 2025, this investigation was presented to the Peace Officer Standards Accountability Advisory Board (Board). Respondent attended remotely and spoke during the public comment session. After the presentation by POSAD, the Board retired to closed session. At the conclusion of the closed session meeting, the Board unanimously recommended the case to the Commission for revocation of Respondent's Peace Officer certification. On September 10, 2025, POSAD presented this investigation to the Commission. Respondent was not present but was represented by Counsel. At the conclusion of the presentation, the Commission then retired to closed session. At the conclusion of closed session, the Commission returned the case to POSAD for further investigation stating they would like to see additional documents regarding why dishonesty was not an allegation made by LAPD; and referred the matter back to POSAAB.

After reviewing the attached documents and the information gathered from LAPD for this supplemental investigation, coupled with the Investigative Summary and Findings dated March 13, 2025, the Division believes the evidence is clear and convincing Respondent committed the serious misconduct of Dishonesty when he denied purchasing a firearm silencer. Respondent continued his dishonest statements throughout the Board of Rights hearing, denying he intentionally purchased a firearm silencer marketed as a fuel filter. Additionally, clear and convincing evidence exists to show Respondent committed the serious misconduct of Acts that Violate the Law when he committed a felony buy purchasing an illegal firearm silencer over the internet from a company in China, and had it shipped to his home address.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The Commission shall review recommendations made by the Peace Officer Standards Accountability Advisory Board (POSAAB) regarding, what action if any, should be taken, suspension or revocation, on the certification of the subject peace officer. The Commission's decision to adopt a recommendation by POSAAB to seek revocation shall require a two-thirds vote of Commissioners present and shall be based on whether the record, in its entirety, supports POSAAB's conclusion that serious misconduct has been established by clear and convincing evidence. In any case in which the

Commission reaches a different determination than POSAAB's recommendation, it shall set forth its analysis and reasons for reaching a different determination in writing.

**ATTACHMENT(S):**

BRS01_POST2306324_Walden Luke_Supplemental ISF.pdf
BRS02_POST2306324_Walden_Luke_POSTProfile_Redacted_LAB edits.pdf
BRS03_POST2306324_Walden Luke_Atch.A_LAPD Administrative Investigation 21-001144_Redacted.pdf
BRS04_POST2306324_Walden Luke_Atch. B_21-001144 Supplement - No redactions.pdf
BRS05_POST2306324_Walden Luke_Atch. C_LOT CF21-001144.pdf
BRS06_POST2306324_Walden Luke_Atch. D_BOR Rationale_Redacted.pdf
BRS07_POST2306324_Walden Luke_Atch. E_BOR Transcript 1_Redacted.pdf
BRS08_POST2306324_Walden_Luke_BOR_Transcript_2_Redacted.pdf
BRS09_POST2306324_Walden Luke_Atch. G_BOR Transcript 3_No Redactions.pdf
BRS10_POST2306324_Walden Luke_Atch. H_BOR Decision_No Redaction.pdf
BRS11_POST2306324_Walden Luke_Atch. I_ATF Bulletin Solvent Trap - No Redactions.pdf
BRS12_POST2306324_Walden Luke_ Atch. J_ATF Bulletin Fuel Filter - No Redactions.pdf
BRS13_POST2306324_Walden Luke_Atch. K_LAPD Criminalist Report - No Redaction.pdf
BRS14_POST2306324_Walden Luke_Atch. L_Criminal Court Document_Redacted.pdf
BRS15_POST2306324_Walde Luke_Atch. M_Pictures of Seized Item.pdf
BRS16_POST2306324_Walden Luke_Atch. N_Pictures Packaging_Redacted.pdf
BRS17_POST2306324_Walden Luke_ Atch. O_Picture Amazon Purchase_No Redaction.pdf
BRS18_POST2306324_Walden Luke_Atch. P_ DMV Vehicle Reg_Redacted.pdf
BRS20_POST2306324_Walden Luke_Atch. R_LAPD Daily Worksheet_Redacted.pdf
BRS21_POST2306324_Walden Luke_Atch. S_LAPD Respondent Firearm Printout_Redacted.pdf
BRS22_POST2306324_Walden Luke_Atch. T_LAPD Property Report - No Redactions.pdf
BRS23_POST2306324_Walden Luke_Atch. U_Pictures of Respondent's Vehicles_Redacted.pdf
BRS24_POST230324_Walden Luke_Atch. V_LAPD Email RE Honesty Allegation.pdf
BRS25_POST2306324_Walden Luke_Atch. W_ISF dated 3-13-25.pdf
BRS26_POST2306324_Wlden Luke_Atch. X_Transcript 07-16- 2025 POSAAB.pdf
BR01_POST2306324_Walden_Luke_ISF.pdf
BR02_POST2306324_Walden_Luke_ExecReviewDivisonRec.pdf
BR03_POST2306324_Walden_Luke_Attachment_A_POSTProfile_Redacted.pdf
BR04_POST2306324_Walden_Luke_Attachment_B_Package_Picture_Redacted.pdf
BR05_POST2306324_Walden_Luke_Attachment_C_ATF_Bulletin1.pdf
BR06_POST2306324_Walden_Luke_Attachment_C_ATF_Bulletin2.pdf
BR07_POST2306324_Walden_Luke_Attachment_D_Seized_Item.PNG
BR08_POST2306324_Walden_Luke_Attachment_E_DOJ_Printout_Redacted.pdf
BR09_POST2306324_Walden_Luke_Attachment F_LAPD Audit screenshot.png

BR10_POST2306324_Walden_Luke_Attachment_G_Search_Warrant_Supplement_Redacted
BR11_POST2306324_Walden_Luke_Attachment_H_Amazon_Purchase.pdf
BR12_POST2306324_Walden_Luke_Attachment_I_Criminal_Court_Documents_Redacted.pd
BR13_POST2306324_Walden_Luke_Attachment_J_BOR_Rationale.pdf
BR15_POST2306324_Walden_Luke_Attachment_L_Criminalist_Report.pdf
POST2306324_Walden_Luke_July_2025_POSAAB_Agenda_Record.pdf
POST2306324_Walden_Luke_Board_Recommendation_Signed.pdf
POST2306324_Walden_Luke_Transcript_Board_07.16.2025.pdf
POST2306324_Walden_Luke_November_2025_POSAAB_Agenda_Record.pdf
POST2306324_Walden_Luke_Board_Recommendation_Signed (2).pdf
POST2306324_Walden_Luke_Transcript_Board_11.06.2025.pdf
BRS19_POST2306324_Walden_Luke__DOJ_Email_of_Respondent_s_Firearms_Redacted
LAB Review.pdf