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**
07/16/2025	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 matter is before the Peace Officer Standards Accountability Advisory Board (POSAAB) for review and recommendation regarding the subject peace officer's certification status.

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).

The case before the Board 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.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Peace Officer Standards Accountability Advisory Board (POSAAB) shall review the findings of investigation presented by the Peace Officer Standards Accountability Division (POSAD) and make a recommendation regarding what action should be taken, suspension or revocation, on the certification

of the subject peace officer.

ATTACHMENT(S):

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