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.: POST2317684

SUBJECT OFFICER: Efrem Hunter Jr. **POST ID:** C24-H89

EMPLOYING AGENCY: Los Angeles Police Department

ALLEGED MISCONDUCT: 13510.8(b)(3)/11 CCR 1205(a)(3) – Physical Abuse/Excessive or Unreasonable Use of Force

CASE SUMMARY:

On September 13, 2023, the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) submitted a serious misconduct complaint to POST against Officer Ephrem Hunter Jr., hereafter "Respondent", alleging that Respondent committed excessive force against a restrained suspect. Following POST's investigation and review, POST found, by clear and convincing evidence, that reasonable grounds existed for consideration of revocation pursuant to Penal Code 13510.8. A summary of the investigative findings of the Division are as follows:

On September 6, 2021, LAPD Respondent was one of several officers requested to assist with a detainee, hereafter Victim, who was refusing to follow lawful orders and was threatening violence against booking officers. After Respondent and other officers used lawful force to gain control of the Victim, Respondent punched Victim in the side of the head with a closed fist while Victim sat handcuffed and chained to a rail above a bench in the booking area, surrounded by four other officers.

Previously, on January 14, 2021, Respondent punched a handcuffed suspect in the head with a closed fist when the suspect kicked at Respondent's partner during an arrest. That use of force investigation was submitted to POST in a report (POST2301132) on January 25, 2023, and was closed prior to POST being made aware of the second incident. Both reports were analyzed in the investigation and were determined to establish a pattern with the Respondent's use of force.

LAPD completed their second investigation on August 25, 2022, with a finding of sustained excessive force, and Respondent was recommended for termination from his position. However,

Respondent had already been terminated on February 6, 2022, as the result of the prior use of force investigation that was also sustained. POST was made aware of the first sustained excessive force allegation on January 25, 2023, and the second one on September 13, 2023.

Following POST's investigation and review, POST found, by clear and convincing evidence, that reasonable grounds existed for consideration of revocation pursuant to Penal Code 13510.8. The findings in the POST Investigative Summary and Findings report are as follows:

ANALYSIS/FINDINGS:

1. **The alleged misconduct violated Penal Code Section 13510.8 (b)(3) and Title 11, California Code of Regulations Section 1205 (a)(3) – Physical Abuse / Excessive or Unnecessary Use of Force**

Penal Code Section 13510.8 (b)(3) and Commission Regulation 1205 (a)(3) defines as serious misconduct "Physical abuse, including, but not limited to, the excessive or unreasonable use of force."

Clear and convincing evidence in the form of video and audio recordings establishes that Respondent used a closed fist to punch a handcuffed and detained suspect on January 14, 2021, while the suspect was being guarded by two other officers. This is supported by the statements of three additional Officers on scene as well as captured on two separate body worn camera's audio and video recordings of the incident, including Respondent's.

Additionally, clear and convincing evidence in the form of video and audio recordings establishes that Respondent used a closed fist to punch a handcuffed and detained suspect inside the booking facility at the Metro Detention Center on September 6, 2021, while the suspect was being guarded by five other officers. This is supported by the statements of two additional Officers, as well as clearly captured on one of the Officer's body worn camera audio and video of the incident.

OUTCOME/IMPOSITION OF DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST PEACE OFFICER CERTIFICATION:

The Peace Officer Standards Accountability Division determined that reasonable grounds existed to seek revocation of Respondent's certification in this case. A notice of intent to revoke was served on June 7, 2024. 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 July 23, 2024, the default order was issued and served on Respondent. Efrem Hunter Jr.'s (POST2317684) (POST ID: C24-H89) peace officer certification was revoked on July 23, 2024.