COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
PEACE OFFICER STANDARDS AND TRAINING COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF	)	Case No. 2022-005
JOSEPH PONZO	)	

DECERTIFICATION ORDER

The Respondent Joseph Ponzo has entered into a 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(a)(i), 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, as well as any Order of the Commission contemplated by the Agreement.

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

(a) The factual findings and conclusions of law set forth in the Order to Show Cause in this matter, and incorporated into the Agreement, are hereby adopted;
(b) The Respondent's law enforcement certification is hereby permanently revoked; 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 April 17, 2025.

Margaret R. Hinkle

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

Notice: Joseph Ponzo, Respondent
Amy C. Parker, Esq., Commission Enforcement Counsel
Shaun Martinez, Esq., Deputy Director, Division of Police Standards
Division of Police Standards
Stoneham Police Department, Law Enforcement Agency
Collective Bargaining Unit

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
PEACE OFFICER STANDARDS AND TRAINING COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF

JOSEPH PONZO
MPTC ID: 9998-0874

Case No. 2022-005

DECERTIFICATION AGREEMENT

I, the above-named Respondent, wish to resolve the pending disciplinary proceedings against me by entering into the following Decertification Agreement:

1. I understand that the Commission has issued an Order to Show Cause detailing certain allegations of misconduct against me, dated March 28, 2025, which is hereby incorporated by reference as part of this Agreement.

(Initials)

2. I hereby waive my right to contest the factual findings and conclusions of law detailed in the Order to Show Cause, the terms and conditions or other provisions of this Agreement, as well as any Order of the Commission contemplated by this Agreement, in any administrative or judicial forum to which the Commission is or may be a party.

(Initials)

3. I hereby agree to the permanent revocation of my law enforcement officer certification in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 6E, §§ 3(a) and 10(a)(i).

(Initials)

4. I acknowledge that, once this Agreement is executed, the Commission will issue an Order of Decertification adopting all of the factual findings and conclusions of law set forth in the Order to Show Cause. Both this Agreement and the Order of Decertification 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 my certification will be publicly available on certain lists and databases published by the Commission.

(Initials)

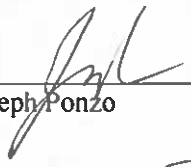
5. I understand that, as required under M.G.L. c. 6E, § 10(g), the Commission will submit all revocation information, including a copy of this Agreement and any Order of Decertification, for inclusion in the National Decertification Index (NDI). The Commission shall report that my certification has been revoked for cause, on the basis of my having been convicted of one or more felonies.

(Initials)

6. This Agreement is subject to the approval of the Commission, and shall take effect on the date it is approved by the Commission.

(Initials)

RESPONDENT:



Joseph Ponzo

3-30-25

Date

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
PEACE OFFICER STANDARDS AND TRAINING COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF JOSEPH PONZO MPTC ID: 9998-0874	Case No. 2022-005

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE
(Pursuant to 555 CMR 1.10)

This is an Order to Show Cause why the Massachusetts Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission ("Commission") should not revoke or otherwise take action against the law enforcement officer certification of the Respondent, Joseph Ponzo, based upon the following allegations.

Factual Allegations

1. 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 Commission suspended the Respondent's certification on December 9, 2022, and did not renew his certification upon its expiration on July 1, 2023.

2. On April 13, 2023, the Commission directed its Division of Police Standards ("Division") to open a preliminary inquiry to investigate the allegation that the Respondent was charged with one or more felonies, and therefore, if later convicted, may be subject to mandatory revocation of his police certification. M.G.L. c. 6E, §§ 8(c)(1)(ii), 10(a)(i); 555 CMR 1.02(3)(b).

3. On November 6, 2024, the Respondent pled guilty in the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts to one count of Conspiracy to Commit Honest Services Wire Fraud, twenty-four counts of Aiding and Abetting Honest Services Wire Fraud, four counts of Aiding and Assisting in Filing False Tax Returns, and one count of False Statements. *See United States v. Ponzo, et al.,* Docket No. 1:22−cr−10094 (D. Mass., November 6, 2024). All of these offenses are felonies under Federal law. *See* 18 U.S.C. §§ 2, 1001(a)(2), 1343, 1346, and 1349; 26 U.S.C. § 7206(2). The Respondent was sentenced to 27 months in prison, to be followed by two years of supervised release, and was ordered to pay a $100,000 fine, as well as restitution to the Internal Revenue Service. *See United States v. Ponzo, et al.,* Docket No. 1:22−cr−10094 (D. Mass., February 28, 2025).

Legal Basis for Commission Action

4. 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 [C]ommission deems reasonable; . . .
> (23) restrict, suspend or revoke certifications issued under [chapter 6E];
> (24) conduct adjudicatory proceedings in accordance with chapter 30A; . . . .

5. Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 6E, § 10(a)(i), "[t]he [C]ommission shall, after a hearing, revoke an officer's certification if the [C]ommission finds by clear and convincing evidence that . . . the officer is convicted of a felony."

6. Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 6E, § 10(g), the Commission shall publish any revocation order and findings and shall provide all revocation information to the National Decertification Index ("NDI").

7. 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 on the alleged misconduct.

8. Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, § 10, "[u]nless otherwise provided by any law, agencies may . . . place on any party the responsibility of requesting a hearing if the agency notifies [the party] in writing of [the party's] right to a hearing and of [the party's] responsibility to request the hearing."

WHEREFORE, the Respondent, Joseph Ponzo, is hereby ORDERED to Show Cause why the Commission should not:

a. find that the Respondent has been convicted of felony offense(s);

b. issue and publish an order revoking the Respondent's police certification; and

c. order the provision of all revocation information to the National Decertification Index.

Respectfully submitted,

PEACE OFFICER STANDARDS AND TRAINING COMMISSION

By its attorney,

/s/ Amy C. Parker
Amy C. Parker
Enforcement Counsel
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Dated: March 28, 2025