

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26

**BEFORE THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRAINING COMMISSION
IN AND FOR THE STATE OF WASHINGTON**

In re the Certification of
MICHAEL SAPONARA,

Respondent.

NO. 21-031

STATEMENT OF CHARGES

On or about June 18, 2021, MICHAEL SAPONARA a certified peace officer formerly with the Bothell Police Department (BPD), resigned in lieu of termination with that agency after engaging in conduct that failed to meet the ethical and professional standards required of a peace officer and/or disrupted, diminished or jeopardized public trust or confidence in the law enforcement profession. Such misconduct subjects SAPONARA'S peace officer certification to discipline under RCW 43.101.105(3)(j)(iv) and/or (3)(k). The circumstances are as follows:

COUNT I

On or around November 13, 2020, SAPONARA engaged in conduct that failed to meet the ethical and professional standards of a peace officer and/or disrupted, diminished or jeopardized public trust in law enforcement when he: (1) forcefully gripped the face of a handcuffed, compliant suspect without having a legitimate law enforcement purpose; and/or (2) threatened a suspect with serious physical harm and/or potential death if the suspect were to resist; and/or (3) used a homophobic slur when

1 communicating with a suspect. This misconduct subjects SAPONARA'S peace officer
2 certification to discipline under RCW 43.101.105(3)(j)(iv).

3 AND/OR

4 **COUNT II**

5 On or around February 7, 2021, SAPONARA engaged in conduct that failed to
6 meet the ethical and professional standards of a peace officer and/or disrupted,
7 diminished or jeopardized public trust in law enforcement when he: (1) threatened a
8 suspect with serious physical harm if the suspect were to resist; and/or (2) used a
9 disability-related slur when communicating with a suspect; and/or (3) on a separate call
10 that day, engaged in a heated public argument with another BPD officer over the
11 necessity of a warrant, where SAPONARA yelled and used profanity in the presence of
12 civilians. This misconduct subjects SAPONARA'S peace officer certification to discipline
13 under RCW 43.101.105(3)(j)(iv).

14 AND/OR

15 **COUNT III**

16 On or about June 18, 2021, SAPONARA resigned in lieu of termination from
17 employment with BPD after engaging in the misconduct described in Counts I-II.
18 SAPONARA's peace officer certification is therefore subject to discipline under
19 RCW 43.101.105(3)(k).

20 DATED this 26 day of March 2025.

21 By: 

22
23
24
25 **KIMBERLY A. BLISS**
26 Assistant Director, Certification
Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission