

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
PEACE OFFICER STANDARDS AND TRAINING COMMISSION**

IN THE MATTER OF
ANTHONY TANTILLO

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Case No. 2025-040

RETRAINING ORDER

The Respondent Anthony Tantillo has entered into a Disposition Agreement (“Agreement”), attached hereto and incorporated herein, under which he has agreed to undergo retraining and comply with certain conditions outlined in the Agreement. See M.G.L. c. 6E, §§ 3(a) and 10; M.G.L. c. 30A, §§ 10 and 13.

Failure of the Respondent to abide by the terms and conditions of the Agreement shall result in the Agreement becoming void and may result in the Commission initiating adjudicatory proceedings against the Respondent; and seeking discipline against the Respondent based on any ground supported by the evidence obtained in a preliminary inquiry, whether or not it was covered in the Agreement, up to and including the possible revocation of the Respondent’s certification and entry of his information into the National Decertification Index. 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.

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 Agreement are hereby adopted;
- (b) The Respondent shall undergo retraining in a form to be approved by the Commission in consultation with the Municipal Police Training Committee;
- (c) Following completion of the retraining contemplated herein, the Respondent shall provide the Commission with proof of the approved retraining;
- (d) Failure of the Respondent to successfully complete the retraining contained herein shall constitute sufficient grounds to deny any application for recertification the Respondent may submit in the future; and
- (e) The Executive Director shall take the necessary steps to publish the Respondent’s name and retraining in any publicly available lists and database published by the Commission.

By vote of the Commission on August 14, 2025.

Margaret R. Hinkle

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

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
PEACE OFFICER STANDARDS AND TRAINING COMMISSION

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IN THE MATTER OF)	
)	Case No. 2025-040
ANTHONY TANTILLO)	
MPTC ID: 4279-3929)	
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DISPOSITION AGREEMENT

In the interest of resolving the above-captioned matter and consistent with the public interest and laws and regulations governing the Massachusetts Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission (“Commission”), including M.G.L. c. 6E, §§ 3(a), 8, and 10, and 555 C.M.R. §§ 1.01–1.10, the Respondent, Anthony Tantillo, and the Commission hereby enter into this Disposition Agreement:

Factual Findings

1. In October of 2020, the Respondent was employed by the Palmer Police Department (“PPD”) in a part-time capacity as special police officer. In August of 2021, he became a full-time PPD police officer. In March of 2022, he resigned to take a full-time police officer position with the Sudbury Police Department. On August 1, 2023, he was re-hired by the PPD.
2. On July 1, 2021, the Respondent was automatically certified as a law enforcement officer in Massachusetts pursuant to St. 2020, c. 253, § 102, an Act Relative to Justice, Equity and Accountability in Law Enforcement in the Commonwealth.
3. Effective July 1, 2024, the Commission issued a three-year certification to the Respondent, pursuant to M.G.L. 6E §§ 3(a), and 555 C.M.R. §§ 9.01–9.12. His certification is active and has remained active throughout the period covered by this Agreement.
4. On June 20, 2024, the Respondent was on duty with the PPD when he responded, alone, to a call regarding a group causing a disturbance at the front entrance of the Baystate Wing Hospital in Palmer, MA.
5. Upon arriving at the hospital, the Respondent observed an SUV parked in front of the entrance with a woman seated in the driver’s seat. The woman was crying and arguing with hospital security staff standing at the entrance. The woman reported that she had brought her

husband to the hospital because he was “angry” and “suicidal.” She also reported that her husband had caused a large observable crack on the windshield of her vehicle. The husband was no longer in the vehicle, and his whereabouts were not known at that time.

6. The Respondent attempted to speak with the woman but struggled to gain her attention as she was upset and emotional and at one point began to yell at the hospital staff. The Respondent quickly became angry and began yelling at her.

7. The Respondent reportedly smelled alcohol emanating from the vehicle and asked the woman if she had been drinking, and she claimed to have had “one drink.” Based on these and other observations, the Respondent suspected that she was intoxicated and ordered her out of the vehicle.

8. After the woman cursed at the Respondent and refused to exit the vehicle, the Respondent threatened to “rip [her] out of the car” and noted that he was “the wrong one to tie with.” Less than two seconds later, he began to forcibly remove her from the vehicle. He unbuckled her seat belt and dragged her by her arm out of the vehicle and onto the ground. He then handcuffed the woman, placed her into the back of his cruiser, and slammed the cruiser door shut.

9. Prior to forcibly removing the woman from the vehicle, the Respondent made few, if any, attempts to de-escalate the situation and failed to adequately consider alternative means of assuring that she did not drive the vehicle including, as later noted by the PPD, asking for vehicle’s keyfob. Moreover, his angry and aggressive approach to the situation escalated the hostility and dangerousness of the situation.

10. After the woman was secured in the cruiser, a man, later identified as the woman’s husband, walked towards the Respondent’s cruiser and told the Respondent to “not yell at her.” The husband’s shirt was fully unbuttoned, and his speech was slurred. The Respondent immediately approached the husband, going chest-to-chest with him. After arguing with the husband for a few seconds, the Respondent directed the husband to turnaround and then immediately and without providing him any time to comply with the order to turnaround, deployed Oleoresin Capsicum (“OC”) spray¹ to the husband’s face. The Respondent then took the husband to the ground and placed him into handcuffs.

11. Prior to the Respondent’s deployment of OC spray, the husband had made no statements or movements suggesting that he was about to assault the Respondent or anyone else.

12. Prior to the Respondent’s deployment of OC spray, he made no attempts to de-escalate the situation and instead escalated the hostility of the situation by immediately approaching and arguing with the husband.

¹ Commonly referred to as “pepper spray.”

13. A breathalyzer test preformed after the incident indicated that the woman was, as the Respondent suspected, intoxicated.

14. On June 20, 2024, the PPD initiated an internal affairs investigation into the incident described above.

15. On July 3, 2024, the Respondent resigned from the PPD.

16. On October 4, 2024, the PPD notified the Commission of the results of his internal affairs investigation into the incident described above. The PPD reported that it had sustained charges that the Respondent used excessive force with both the woman and the husband and that his conduct throughout the incident was unbecoming of a police officer. The PPD also noted that it believed that that the Respondent failed to utilize feasible de-escalation tactics prior to using force on both the woman and the husband and that throughout the incident the Respondent had “the characteristics of someone who is angry and lacking the ability to control himself.”

17. On November 24, 2024, the Commission, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 6E, § 8(c)(1)(iii) and (c)(2) and 555 C.M.R. § 1.02(2) and (4), authorized the Division to conduct a preliminary inquiry into the allegations of misconduct sustained by PPD.

18. Except for the incident described above, the Respondent has no sustained allegations of excessive force or other misconduct while serving as a law enforcement officer.

19. On July 9, 2025, the Division submitted its report of preliminary inquiry to the Commission. Subsequently, on July 17, 2025, the Commission authorized the initiation of disciplinary proceedings against the Respondent. M.G.L. c. 6E, § 8(c)(1)(iii).

Legal Conclusions

20. 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 commission deems reasonable; . . .

(23) restrict, suspend or revoke certifications issued under [chapter 6E];

(24) conduct adjudicatory proceedings in accordance with chapter 30A; . . .

21. Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 6E, § 10(d)(iii), “[t]he [C]ommission may, after a hearing, order retraining for any officer if the [C]ommission finds substantial evidence that the officer . . . used excessive force.”

22. Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 6E, § 10(d)(iv), “[t]he [C]ommission may [...] order retraining for any officer if the [C]ommission finds substantial evidence that the officer [...] failed to respond to an incident according to established procedure,”

23. Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 6E, § 10(d)(ix), “[t]he [C]ommission may, after a hearing, order retraining for any officer if the [C]ommission finds substantial evidence that the officer . . . would benefit from their job performance if retrained.”

24. As described above, on June 20, 2024, the Respondent used excessive force and failed to respond according to established procedure. His behavior supports that he would benefit in his job performance if retrained.

25. 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.

26. Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, § 10, “[u]nless otherwise provided by law, agencies may . . . make informal disposition of any adjudicatory proceeding by stipulation, agreed settlement, consent order or default.”

Resolution

In view of the foregoing, the Commission has determined that the public interest would best be served by the disposition of this matter without further enforcement proceedings, on the basis of the following terms and conditions which have been agreed to by the Respondent:

27. The Respondent acknowledges that, once this Agreement is executed, the Commission will issue an Order of Retraining adopting all of the factual findings and conclusions of law set forth in this Agreement.

28. The Respondent agrees to the entry of an order, by the Commission, finding substantial evidence of the violations described herein, and directing him to undergo retraining in a form to be approved by the Commission in consultation with the Municipal Police Training Committee (MPTC), pursuant to M.G.L. c. 6E, §§ 3(a), and M.G.L. c. 6E, § 10(d)(iii), (iv), and (ix). Following completion of the retraining contemplated herein, the Respondent shall provide the Commission with proof of the same.

29. The Respondent agrees that, if he should fail to successfully complete the retraining contemplated herein, said failure shall constitute sufficient grounds to deny any application for recertification the Respondent may submit in the future. *See 555 CMR 7.05.*

30. The Respondent agrees that, if he should fail to abide by any of the terms and conditions of this agreement, this agreement shall become void, and the Division may, without prior notice to the Respondent, take the following steps:

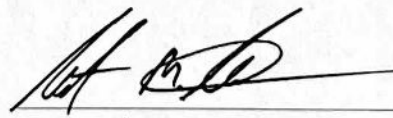
- a. initiate adjudicatory proceedings against the Respondent;
- b. seek discipline against the Respondent based on any ground supported by the evidence in its preliminary inquiry, including grounds beyond those covered by this agreement; and
- c. seek any level of discipline supported by the evidence, up to and including the revocation of the Respondent's certification and the entry of his information onto the National Decertification Index.

31. The Respondent waives all rights to contest the factual findings, conclusions of law, terms and conditions, or other provisions contained in this agreement in any administrative or judicial forum to which the Commission is or may be a party.

32. The Respondent acknowledges that, once this Agreement is executed, it and any Order of Retraining issued by the Commission 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 the Respondent's certification will be publicly available on certain lists and databases published by the Commission.

33. This Agreement shall be effective as of the date it is approved by the Commission.

August 7, 2025
Date


Respondent

August 14, 2025
Date

Margaret R. Hinkle
Margaret R. Hinkle, Chair