

# **CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING**

**Minutes – Tuesday, March 22, 2011, 2:00 p.m.**

**City Hall, 45 Lyon Terrace, Wheeler Rooms A & B, Bridgeport, CT 06604**

Commissioner Guedes called the special meeting of the Civil Service Commission to order at 2:07 p.m. Present were Commissioners Rodgers, McBride, Plummer, and Correa. Also present were Personnel Director David Dunn and Clerk to the Commission Deborah Brelsford. City Attorney John Mitola was also in attendance.

Mr. Dunn stated that the purpose of the special meeting was to hear the appeals of 4 police officer candidates that he disqualified for habits and conduct. The appeal would last 30 minutes, with each side having 10 minutes to present and the Commissioners would have 10 minutes to ask questions of either side, the OIA Investigator, Chief Joseph Gaudett, or City Attorney John Mitola. Mr. Dunn further explained to the Commissioners that Attorney Thomas Bucci was representing each of the 4 appellants. Attorney Bucci stated that each case was individual and each candidate would decide if he wanted to have an executive or public session. Mr. Dunn explained that each candidate had copies of the reports that he based his decision on for disqualification.

## **1. David Pabis – Appeal - DENIED**

Commissioner Guedes asked Mr. David Pabis if he would like an open or closed session. Mr. Pabis asked for a closed session. On a motion made by Commissioner Plummer and seconded by Commissioner McBride the Commission entered executive session at 2:10 p.m. The Commission returned to public session at 2:45 p.m. Commissioner Plummer, McBride, Rodgers and Correa each voted to deny the appeal of Mr. David Pabis; therefore, the Commission unanimously denied the appeal of Mr. Pabis regarding his disqualification from Police Officer #2302 for habits and conduct.

## **2. John Carrano – Appeal - GRANTED**

Commissioner Guedes asked Mr. Carrano if he would like an open or closed session. Mr. Carrano asked for a closed session. On a motion made by Commissioner Correa and seconded by Commissioner McBride the Commission entered executive session at 2:48 p.m. The Commission returned to public session at 3:01 p.m. Commissioner Rodgers voted to deny the appeal of Mr. Carrano and Commissioners Correa, McBride, and Plummer each voted to grant the appeal of Mr. Carrano. Therefore, the Commission unanimously granted the appeal of Mr. Carrano regarding his disqualification from Police Officer #2302 for habits and conduct. Commissioner Guedes affirmed Mr. Carrano for his integrity and his military service. Mr. Dunn told Mr. Carrano that his office would be calling him to schedule additional appointments.

## **3. Daniel Paz – Appeal – GRANTED**

Commissioner Guedes asked Mr. Daniel Paz if he would like an open or closed session. Mr. Paz asked for a closed session. On a motion made by Commissioner McBride and seconded by Commissioner the Commission entered executive session at 3:06 p.m. The Commission returned to public session at 3:50 p.m. Commissioner Rodgers voted to deny the appeal of Mr. Paz and Commissioners Plummer, McBride, and Correa each voted to grant the appeal of Mr. Daniel Paz; therefore, the Commission unanimously granted the appeal of Mr. Paz regarding his disqualification from Police Officer #2302 for habits and conduct. Mr. Dunn told Mr. Carrano that his office would be calling him to schedule additional appointments.

#### 4. Charles Letezeio, Jr. – Appeal – DENIED

Commissioner Guedes asked Mr. Charles Letezeio if he would like an open or closed session. Mr. Letezeio asked for a public session. Mr. Dunn took the Commissioners through the following 6 areas of concern related to Mr. Letezeio's disqualification:

##### 1. Drugs and Narcotics Use

- Mr. Letezeio stated that he DELIBERATELY minimized his marijuana usage during his polygraph examination. He indicated that he “grossly underestimated and deliberately minimized his marijuana usage.” He indicated that he smoked marijuana from age 16-20, however, he later clarified to state that he smoked marijuana over 300-400 times. **(OIA Report page 3, Polygraph Report page 4)**
- Also, 1985, he pooled money with friends to purchase marijuana and inhaled amyl nitrates “whippets” **(Polygraph Report page 3)**

##### 2. Illegal/Criminal Behavior or Conduct

- 1989 road rage incident – Mr. Letezeio confronted another auto driver, exposed a .380 handgun under his shirt. Was warned by the Fairfield Police Department regarding his behavior with his weapon. **(OIA Report/Polygraph Report)**
- 2004 admission of fraudulent deductions on his income tax **(OIA Report/Polygraph Report)**
- 2005/2008 fraudulently inflated his income on 5 credit card applications **(OIA Report/Polygraph Report)**
- False statements on his credit card applications in order to gain credit with those companies **(OIA Report/Polygraph Report)**
- Failed to appear in court regarding lawsuits. Mr. Letezeio has asserted he did so on the advice of his attorney. **(OIA Report/Polygraph Report)**
- 2010 illegally downloaded approximately 20 songs from the internet, fraudulent copyright infringement **(OIA Report/Polygraph Report)**

##### 3. Current Financial Liabilities/Debt Obligations/Failure to Report/Pay Federal or State Taxes

###### 2010

- Sued by Newtown Savings Bank regarding **\$700,000** debt owed liquor distributors. Bankruptcy status has not yet been granted. **(OIA Report/Polygraph Report)**
- In addition to his status regarding Newtown Savings Bank lawsuits and bankruptcy application, Mr. Letezeio has approximately **\$400,000** in other debt, including first mortgage, second mortgage, auto loan, motorcycle loan, credit card balances, personal obligations. **(OIA Report/Polygraph Report)**
- In total, Mr. Letezeio's current debt is in excess of **\$1,100,000**. Mr. Letezeio's debt issues present a significant challenge and potential liability considering the income of a police officer. **(OIA Report/Polygraph Report)**

## 2009

- Failure to pay Connecticut and federal income taxes; extension application claimed **(OIA Report/Polygraph Report)**

## 2003/2010

- “under the table” for Custom Turf Company – failed to pay state and federal income taxes **(Polygraph Report)**

### **4. Unsatisfactory Prior Employment**

- Date Unknown – Golf Digest – laid off – performance issues **(Polygraph Report)**
- Admits to stealing staples, staplers, copy paper, compact discs from Pitney Bowes, Dictaphone, and Skandia. **(Polygraph Report)**
- Mr. Letezeio admitted to calling in sick to every employer he has worked for, when in fact he was not sick. **(Polygraph Report)**
- While employed at Golf Digest, Dictaphone and Pitney Bowes, Mr. Letezeio used company computers to play games. While at Golf Digest, he used a company laptop computer to surf pornographic websites. **(Polygraph Report)**

### **5. Withholding or Falsification of Information**

- Mr. Letezeio admitted to intentionally misleading and misrepresenting his marijuana usage to the polygraph examiner. **(OIA Report/Polygraph Report)**

### **6. Additional Conduct and Behavior/Violation of Police Rules and Regulations**

- Mr. Letezeio has had an on-going dispute with several neighbors that has generated 6 complaints between Mr. Letezeio and 2 of his neighbors regarding parking on Madison Avenue in Trumbull. Mr. Letezeio claims his neighbors are parking on his property. His neighbors claim that he is in violation of Town zoning laws and motor vehicle laws, improperly placed large stones on the planting strip on Town property near the road as well as iron rebar which was staked into the ground. Mr. Letezeio was ordered by the Trumbull Zoning and Police Department to remove the stones and rebar stakes. Mr. Letezeio was accused by neighbors of painting large stones with the letters “FU” and positioning the stones towards the neighbors front door. Neighbors called police and police pushed the stones over. **(Trumbull Police Reports attached)**

Attorney Bucci said that things were taken out of context. He explained that Mr. Letezeio filed an extension for his 2009 taxes. Mr. Bucci also explained that failing to appear in a civil case does not violate a law and there is nothing criminal or immoral about it. Mr. Bucci said that Mr. Letezeio bought a TV for the package store but used it at home because having a TV in a package store required a different type of permit. Regarding the inflation of income on the credit card applications that Mr. Letezeio applied for Mr. Bucci explained that Mr. Letezeio was thinking of net income and not gross income.

Mr. Bucci stated that since 1985 Mr. Letezeio has not smoked marijuana or used other illegal substances and for 26 years he has had a clean record. With regard to his business Mr. Letezeio stated that a trusted worker embezzled the funds. Attorney Bucci added that in this great

recession the business failed and the buyer backed out. Attorney Bucci explained that there is nothing criminal whatsoever related to these matters and they should not be issues of concern.

Attorney Bucci said that one of Mr. Letezeio's neighbors has given a reference of recommendation to the Police Department and on the other hand his other neighbor built a "McMansion" on his property line. Mr. Letezeio followed procedures and he has been 14 years without other issues.

Sergeant Tijuana Bradley-Webb said that regarding the marijuana usage that Mr. Letezeio did not tell the truth to the polygraph examiner and that Mr. Letezeio minimized usage and this is seen as misleading. Sgt. Webb further stated that the Bridgeport Police Department hires individuals that show integrity and character and that not being in court speaks volumes against Mr. Letezeio's character. She stated that Mr. Letezeio lied to the polygraph examiner. She said his lack of character showed with the credit card inflation of income and not reporting earned income on his income taxes. Chief Joseph Gaudett said that as a whole all actions question the candidate's character.

Mr. Letezeio stated that he and his wife have been married for 17 years. Commissioner Plummer asked Mr. Letezeio if he had plans outside of bankruptcy regarding his financial liability. Mr. Letezeio explained that the letter from *Ambrodio and Pletter* states that the debt will be taken care of in bankruptcy. Commissioner Correa asked why Mr. Letezeio was unable to detect red flags regarding the financial trouble with the package store and Mr. Letezeio said that for 4 ½ years he was unable to detect a problem and that he relied on this employee. Mr. Letezeio said he was basically an absentee owner at the time. Commission Correa stated that he did make some decisions on his own.

Mr. Dunn asked Mr. Letezeio if he had applied to 16 police departments across the State of Connecticut and he said yes. Mr. Dunn asked if he was bound and determined to be a police officer and Mr. Letezeio said yes. Mr. Dunn asked if he cared about where he worked. Mr. Letezeio said he would like to work in Bridgeport because it is where he grew up.

Mr. Dunn said that Mr. Letezeio made self-admissions to the OIA investigator about illegally downloading copyrighted songs off the internet in 2010 and about inflating his income on credit card applications. And, not reporting income from Custom Turf in 2010 on his income taxes. Additionally, Mr. Dunn explained that Mr. Letezeio made self-admissions to the polygraph examiner that he used company equipment at a former employer to view pornographic websites. Mr. Dunn added that Mr. Letezeio also abused sick time for all the employers he worked for. Attorney Bucci explained to the Commissioners that Mr. Letezeio helped out his wife's uncle at Custom Turf and got a few dollars.

Commissioner Correa, Plummer, McBride and Rodgers each voted to deny Mr. Letezeio's appeal. Therefore, the Commission unanimously denied the appeal of Mr. Letezeio regarding his disqualification from Police Officer #2302 for habits and conduct.

##### **5. Thomas Harper – Appeal – TABLED TO 3/29/11**

On a motion made by Commissioner Plummer and seconded by Commissioner Correa, the Commission unanimously tabled Mr. Harper's appeal to March 29, 2011, regarding his disqualification from Police Officer #2302 for habits and conduct.

On a motion made by Commissioner Correa and seconded by Commissioner Plummer the special meeting of the Civil Service Commission was adjourned at 4:25 p.m.