



JOSH STEIN
ATTORNEY GENERAL

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
PO BOX 629
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA 27602

Reply to:
Special Prosecutions and
Law Enforcement Section
(919) 716-6725

MEMORANDUM

TO: N.C. Sheriffs' Education and Training
Standards Commission Members and Staff

FROM: J. Joy Strickland
Assistant Attorney General
Counsel to the Commission

DATE: May 29, 2024

RE: **FINAL AGENCY DECISIONS**
Israel Benitez
Todd Thomas
Junior Thompson

These matters are scheduled to be heard before the Commission at its June 20, 2024 meeting. At that time, you will be called upon to render your Final Agency Decision in these matters after reviewing all pertinent documents and hearing oral arguments. Please review the enclosed documents prior to the Commission meeting and bring them with you to the meeting.

The official records from these hearings will be available at the meeting for your review. If additional submissions by the parties come to my attention before the Commission meeting, I will forward them to you immediately.

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JUN 04 2024

ISRAEL BENITEZ

BY: SHERIFF'S STANDARDS

An administrative hearing was held on October 9, 2023, before Administrative Law Judge Stacey Bice Bawtinheimer regarding whether Petitioner's justice officer certification should be denied for the commission of the felony offense of Larceny/Remove/Deactivate Component again

Belk's Department Store. On November 15, 2023, Judge Bawtinheimer filed her Proposal for Decision, and recommended that the Commission **REVERSE** its intended revocation of Petitioner's justice officer certification. Counsel for the Commission has submitted **Exceptions to the Proposal for Decision** and a **Proposed Final Agency Decision** for your review.

TODD THOMAS

An administrative hearing was held on January 9, 2024, before Administrative Law Judge John C. Evans regarding whether Petitioner's justice officer certification should be suspended based upon a positive drug screen. On February 15, 2024, Judge Evans filed his Proposal for Decision, and recommended that Petitioner's justice officer certification be **REVOKED** for **FIVE (5) YEARS**; however, that revocation be suspended and Petition be placed on **PROBATION** for a period of **FIVE (5) YEARS** due to extenuating circumstances brought out at the administrative hearing, on the condition that during that period of probation, Petitioner not violate any law (other than infractions) of this state or any other state, any federal laws, or any rules of this Commission. Counsel for the Commission and Counsel for Petitioner have submitted **Exceptions to the Proposal for Decision**. Counsel for the Commission has submitted a **Proposed Final Agency Decision** for your review.

JUNIOR THOMPSON

An administrative hearing was held on October 19, 2023, before Administrative Law Judge Samuel K. Morris regarding whether Petitioner's justice officer certification should be denied for the commission of the Felony of Bigamy. On December 4, 2023, Judge Morris filed his Proposal for Decision, and recommended that Petitioner's justice officer certification be **DENIED PERMANENTLY** for committing the Felony offense of Bigamy. Counsel for the Commission has submitted **Exceptions to the Proposal for Decision** and a **Proposed Final Agency Decision** for your review. Petitioner emailed Counsel for the Commission seeking to withdraw his petition due to medical reasons.

JJS/ajt

cc: Richard Squires, Director, Sheriffs' Standards Division
Barry K. Henline, Counsel for Israel Benitez
Danny Earl Britt, Jr., Counsel for Todd Thomas
Junior Thompson, Petitioner

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BY SHERIFF'S STANDARDS