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**ILLINOIS STATE POLICE
MERIT BOARD**

**STATE OF ILLINOIS
ILLINOIS STATE POLICE MERIT BOARD**

IN THE MATTER OF

TROOPER JENNIFER L. WHISENAND
I.D. No. 6436
319 North Runkle
Hannah City, Illinois 61536

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**Illinois State Police
Merit Board No.**

COMPLAINT

NOW COMES Leo Schmitz, Director of the Illinois State Police, and pursuant to 20 ILCS 2610/14 and 80 Ill.Admin.Code Sec. 150.575, states as follows:

STATEMENT OF FACTS

1. Jennifer L. Whisenand (Respondent) is employed as a State Police Officer by the Illinois State Police (Department) and holds the rank of Trooper. At all times relevant to this Complaint, Respondent was assigned to District 8. Respondent has been employed by the Department since February 3, 2013.
2. At the request of the Respondent, ISP District 8 Master Sergeant Rosauro Sanchez, ID #4811, and ISP Sergeant Greg Bowers, ID #5254, met with Respondent at the Kountry Kitchen restaurant in Germantown Hills, Illinois, on June 24, 2014. During this morning meeting, Respondent informed both officers that: a) her brother-in-law at the time, Jason Buckley, a Tazewell County Sheriff's deputy, was responsible for an illegal cannabis growing operation on his property in Peoria County, Illinois, b) she personally observed said cannabis on her brother-in-law's property, c) unidentified men dressed in black clothing were in the fields at or adjacent to her brother-in-law's residence "picking" plants at night. These unidentified men used "animal calls" to signal additional waves of

people to come into the fields to pick the plants, d) her five-year-old niece, Addison Buckley, described to Respondent how to “dry” the cannabis plants and showed Respondent where her brother-in-law used bales of hay to conceal an area where Respondent’s brother-in-law would “lower” her niece to obtain the cannabis plants, and e) that Respondent attempted to capture photographic evidence of said cannabis growing operation via the installation of cameras on her brother-in-law’s property, but that an unidentified person(s) kept on removing the memory cards from the cameras.

3. At the request of her Captain, Michael Welsh, ID #3960, Respondent submitted a Memorandum on June 25, 2014, describing the events that she verbally informed the ISP officers about the day before. At the time of the allegations contained in her Memorandum to Captain Welsh, Respondent lived with her sister and her brother-in-law. Respondent’s Memorandum is attached as Exhibit 1. Respondent’s allegations were investigated by the Department and determined to be unfounded.
4. On July 11, 2014, at approximately 12:15 a.m., Respondent claimed that there were two gun shots fired from the woods south of her aunt’s, Lila Sanders, residence. Lila Sanders called 911 twice, and Peoria County Sheriff’s deputies arrived at her aunt’s residence located at 9421 South Reed City Road, Mapleton, Illinois. Respondent and her aunt informed the deputies that the suspects communicate with each other only by using “animal calls.” No suspects were identified or arrested by the Peoria County Sheriff’s Police.
5. Based upon Respondent’s unusual behavior, Respondent was placed on administrative leave with pay, effective July 15, 2014, until a fitness for duty evaluation could be conducted.

6. At the direction of the Medical Review Board, Respondent attended a fitness for duty evaluation conducted by Dr. Douglas Craig, a licensed psychologist, on July 29, 2014. Dr. Craig subsequently issued a report dated August 1, 2014, in which he found that Respondent was psychologically **unfit** for duty. Said report is attached as Exhibit 2.
7. In concluding that Respondent is unfit for duty, Dr. Craig finds that Respondent “continues to appear in an emotionally fragile state, prone to decompensation.” *Id.* at 10. Dr. Craig’s report describes incidences told to him by Respondent including but not limited to an incident in which Respondent and her sister went into the woods behind their residence in June 2014 to catch her brother-in-law having an affair with another woman. While in the woods, Respondent allegedly observed four or five men, dressed in black, “possibly Ninjas,” communicating with each other via squirrel and coyote calls. Respondent’s sister, Julie Buckley, alleged that said “Ninjas” laid on top of her in the woods for over an hour. None of the “Ninja” allegations were ever corroborated by any law enforcement agency. *Id.* at page 4.
8. After complying with treatment recommendations, Dr. Craig conducted another clinical evaluation of Respondent on October 14, 2014. At that time, Dr. Craig concluded that Respondent was fit for duty. A copy of said report is attached as Exhibit 3.
9. On March 2, 2015, Respondent met with District 8 operations Lieutenant Jason Bevard, Sergeant Jacob Tresenriter, and Sergeant Dustin Pierce at District 8 headquarters. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss a Peoria Police Department report from February 25, 2015, in which Respondent alleged that her apartment had been broken into. Respondent told Peoria police officers that she would “unload a clip” on any intruder. However, no evidence of any break-in or unlawful entry into Respondent’s apartment

was found by Peoria Police Department. In addition, ISP officers Pierce and Tresenriter examined her apartment for any evidence of forced entry and found none.

10. The next day, March 3, 2015, Respondent was placed on administrative leave with pay until a fitness for duty examination could be conducted.
11. On April 3, 2015, Dr. Craig conducted another fitness for duty examination, which culminated into another report dated April 14, 2015. A copy of said report is attached as Exhibit 4. Dr. Craig concluded that Respondent was, again, **unfit** for duty. Dr. Craig's report indicates the following diagnosis: a) Adjustment Disorder, Unspecified; b) Psychotic Disorder, NOS; and (c) Diagnosis Deferred (Personality Disorder, NOS). *See Exhibit 4*.
12. After being found unfit for duty twice by Dr. Craig, and at the direction of the Department, Respondent completed ten mental health counseling sessions with another licensed clinical psychologist, Jane Velez. Those ten sessions occurred from May 4, 2015, to July 20, 2015. Dr. Velez' report from those sessions is attached as Exhibit 5.
13. Dr. Velez reported that Respondent alleged that intruders broke into her apartment. Respondent claimed that she had a video of these incidents, which she showed to Dr. Velez. Dr. Velez found no evidence to corroborate Respondent's claims. Furthermore, Dr. Velez noted that employees of the apartment complex where Respondent lived inspected her apartment unit and found no evidence of any criminal activity. *See Exhibit 5*. Dr. Velez diagnosed Respondent with "Delusional Disorder, Persecutory Type, in which the central theme of the delusion involves a belief that the individual is being conspired against, spied on, followed, poisoned, maliciously maligned, harasses, or obstructed in the pursuit of their long-term goal (being a police

officer).” Id. Dr. Velez further concluded that Respondent “is unlikely to respond to treatment.” Id.

14. On September 16, 2015, Respondent was examined by a licensed clinical psychologist of her choosing, Dr. Luke Dalfiume of Christian Psychological Associates. Dr. Dalfiume completed an Illinois State Police Medical Evaluation form in which he diagnosed Respondent with “Histrionic Personality Disorder,” but noted that “her function and employability appear to be unimpaired at this time.” *See Exhibit 6.* Based upon this report, Respondent remained on administrative leave with pay until a fitness for duty examination could be conducted by a Department approved doctor.
15. On December 4, 2015, the Illinois State Police Medical Review Board ordered Respondent to attend another fitness for duty examination with a licensed clinical psychologist named Dr. Michael Bricker at the Center of Police Psychological Services in Chicago. Said fitness for duty exam was conducted on December 10, 2015. An extensive sixteen-page report was prepared by Dr. Bricker in which he diagnosed Respondent with “adjustment disorder, (unspecified), delusional disorder (persecutory type), histrionic personality disorder, and mood disorder (unspecified).” Exhibit 7, p.15. Dr. Bricker concluded that Respondent was unfit for duty and is “unlikely to demonstrate fitness in the near future.” Id. at p.16.
16. In arriving at his conclusion that Respondent is unfit for duty, Dr. Bricker’s report detailed Respondent’s mental health history over the 18 months prior to his evaluation of her as well as her treatment and incidents reported by her and others. Such incidents include: a) complaints by Respondent that someone was illegally entering her apartment (unfounded by apartment complex management as well as by Peoria Police Department),

b) alleged threats by Respondent that she would “unload a clip” on any intruder, c) allegations made by Respondent to apartment complex staff that others in her apartment complex are “Wiccans” and are using “magnetic fields” to move things around inside her apartment, and d) the allegation that other people are projecting images onto mirrors inside Respondent’s apartment. Exhibit 7, p.10.

17. Upon review of Dr. Bricker’s conclusions, the Illinois State Police Medical Review Board determined that Respondent cannot perform the essential functions of a sworn officer. *See* Exhibit 8 (letter to Respondent from ISP Colonel Kelly Walter, Chairman of the ISP Medical Review Board, dated February 24, 2016). In her letter informing Respondent of her employment options, ISP Colonel and Medical Review Board Chairman Kelly Walter, informed Respondent that she had two options with respect to her employment with the Department: 1) request a vocational assignment to a civilian (non-sworn) position as part of the Department’s reasonable accommodation process, or 2) resign from the Illinois State Police. Id. Respondent was given until March 9, 2016, to inform the Department which option she would choose. Id. Respondent was also informed in that same letter that if she does not choose one of the above two options by March 9, 2016, the Department will initiate proceedings to terminate her employment. Id. Respondent has failed to request a vocational reassignment or resign from the Department. As such, the Department seeks her termination.

COUNT I

18. Paragraphs 1.-18. of this Complaint are incorporated by reference as if fully stated herein. All or a portion of the facts set forth herein constitute Respondent's violation of Department Directive ROC-002, Rule of Conduct, Paragraph III.A.12., which states:

“Officers will maintain sufficient competency to properly perform their duties and assume the responsibilities of their positions. Officers will perform their duties in a manner that will maintain the highest standards of efficiency in carrying out the functions and objectives of the Department. Unsatisfactory performance may be demonstrated by a lack of knowledge of the application of laws required to be enforced; an unwillingness or inability to perform assigned tasks; the failure to conform to work standards established for the officer's rank, grade, or position; the failure to take appropriate action on the occasion of a crime, disorder or other condition deserving police attention; the failure to successfully complete mandatory annual training requirements; or absence without leave. An isolated incident can be evidence of incompetency and/or unsatisfactory performance. In addition to other indications of unsatisfactory performance, the following will be considered prima facie evidence of unsatisfactory performance: repeated poor evaluations or a written record of repeated infractions of rules, regulations, directives or orders of the Department.”

Respondent violated this rule in that she is unable to perform the essential functions of an Illinois State Trooper. Respondent is therefore unable to properly perform her duties and cannot carry out the functions and objectives of the Department in any sworn capacity.

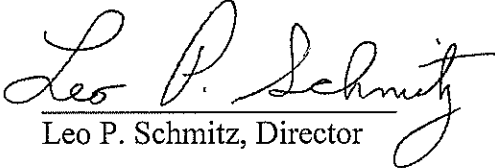
CERTIFICATION

A copy of Illinois State Police Department Directive ROC-002, Rules of Conduct, is provided in the incorporated attachment and is certified by the Director as accurate, complete, and in full force and effect at the time the aforementioned acts were committed.

CONCLUSION

WHEREFORE, by reason of these facts and charges, I request that the Illinois State Police Merit Board conduct a hearing in this matter and terminate Respondent from employment with the Illinois State Police

Respectfully submitted,


Leo P. Schmitz, Director

Illinois State Police
801 South Seventh Street, Suite 1100-S
Springfield, Illinois 62703