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

9 In re the Certification of

NO. 21-003

10 **AUSTIN BRENNER**

STATEMENT OF CHARGES

11 Respondent.

12 On or about January 25, 2021, AUSTIN BRENNER, a certified peace officer with
13 the Skagit County Sheriff's Office (SCSO), was terminated after engaging in conduct
14 that failed to meet the ethical and professional standards required of a peace officer;
15 disrupted, diminished or otherwise jeopardized public trust or confidence in the law
16 enforcement profession; or demonstrated an inability or unwillingness to uphold the
17 officer's sworn oath to enforce the Constitution and laws of the United States and the
18 state of Washington. Such misconduct subjects BRENNER'S peace officer certification
19 to discipline under RCW 43.101.105(3)(j)(iv) and RCW 43.101.105(3)(k). The
20 circumstances are as follows:

21 **COUNT I**

22 On or about November 1, 2020, BRENNER engaged in conduct that failed to
23 meet the ethical and professional standards required of a peace officer; disrupted,
24 diminished or otherwise jeopardized public trust or confidence in the law enforcement
25 profession; and/or demonstrated an inability or unwillingness to uphold his sworn oath
26 to enforce the Constitution and laws of the United States and the state of Washington

1 when he: (1) placed multiple women in headlocks and/or chokeholds without their
2 permission; and/or (2) placed a man in a headlock and/or chokehold and held a knife to
3 the man's throat in a manner that was perceived as threatening; and/or (3) caused
4 physical damage to the residence BRENNER shared with his wife, and to the property
5 of a neighbor; and/or (4) acted aggressively or unprofessionally towards responding
6 officers with the Bellingham Police Department (BPD). As a result of this misconduct,
7 BRENNER was arrested by the BPD for Malicious Mischief 3rd Degree Domestic
8 Violence, RCW 9A.48.090, and charged in Bellingham Municipal Court Case
9 No. xz0819682. Also as a result of this misconduct, the SCSO sustained violations of:
10 (1) Policy 340 - Standard of Conduct, and (2) the SCSO Code of Ethics Cannon Four.
11 BRENNER'S peace officer certification is subject to discipline under
12 RCW 43.101.105(3)(j)(iv).

13
14 AND/OR

15 **COUNT II**

16 On or about January 25, 2021, BRENNER was discharged or otherwise
17 separated from employment with the SCSO after engaging in the misconduct described
18 in Count I. BRENNER'S peace officer certification is subject to discipline under
19 RCW 43.101.105(3)(k).

20
21 DATED this 10 day of October 2023.

22
23 By:



24 KIMBERLY A. BLISS

25 Assistant Director, Certification
26 Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission