

IN THE MATTER OF

A complaint under s 74 of The Private Security Personnel and Private Investigators Act 2010 (the PSPPI Act) against **JAMES TANEVESI**

HEARD remotely on 29 April 2024

APPEARANCES

Sgt B Grantham and Constable S Li for NZ Police
J Tanevesi – no appearance

HEARING DECISION

[1] Police are asking for James Tanevesi's certificate of approval (COA) to be cancelled. They say Mr Tanevesi assaulted two 15 years old while working as a security guard at Commercial Bay on the evening of 22nd February 2024. Police consider this is misconduct and makes Mr Tanevesi no longer suitable to be a certificate holder.

[2] The incident occurred after Mr Tanevesi and another security guard saw on a monitor a group of young people congregating in Commercial Bay and one of the young people tag the wall and a scooter. The CCTV footage of the incidents shows Mr Tanevesi and the other guard approaching the group of young people. Immediately upon their arrival at the scene they grabbed the tagger and threw him against the wall and then to the ground. Mr Tanevesi is seen punching the tagger.

[3] When a young woman approached the security guards Mr Tanevesi tackled her to the ground and restrained her by holding her neck and placing his knee on her back. The CCTV footage shows that the attacks on the young tagger and the young women who intervened were unprovoked.

[4] There was no time for the discussion Mr Tanevesi claimed he had with the tagger in his initial statement to police. In addition, the CCTV does not support Mr Tanevesi's claim to police that there was pushing and shoving, and the tagger was trying to walk away. It was only after he had been assaulted and he was being held and dragged along the floor that the tagger pulled a knife.

[5] I am satisfied that a reasonable person would consider Mr Tanevesi's conduct both in assaulting the young people and in subsequently providing misleading information to police to be disgraceful, wilful, or reckless. It therefore amounts to misconduct as defined in s 4 of the PSPPI Act.


[6] Misconduct is a discretionary ground for the cancellation of Mr Tanevesi's COA. Mr Tanevesi did not attend the hearing and neither provided a written response to the police complaint nor any supporting references or other information in his defence.

[7] The CCTV footage of the incident shows that Mr Tanevesi did not attempt to deescalate the situation but inflamed it and resorted to violence as a first response. This is contrary to what Mr Tanevesi is required to do while working in security. He then lied to police about what happened.

[8] Therefore, I conclude that Mr Tanevesi is no longer suitable to be a certificate holder. I make the following orders:

- a) Mr Tanevesi's certificate of approval is cancelled effective immediately.
- b) Mr Tanevesi is to return his security ID to the PSPLA within seven days of receipt of this order.

DATED at Wellington this 30th day of April 2024


P A McConnell
Private Security Personnel Licensing Authority

