

IN THE MATTER OF

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

HEARD remotely on 29 April 2024

APPEARANCES

Sgt B Grantham and Constable S Li for NZ Police
F Talagi – no appearance

HEARING DECISION

[1] Police are asking for Fred Talagi's certificate of approval (COA) to be cancelled. They say Mr Talagi assaulted a 15-year-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 Talagi no longer suitable to be a certificate holder.

[2] The incident occurred after Mr Talagi 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 Talagi 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.

[3] When a young woman approached the security guards the other security guard tackles her to the ground and restrains her by holding her neck and placing his knee on her back. Mr Talagi continued to hold the tagger on the ground and punch him. 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 Talagi claimed they had with the tagger in his statement to police. In addition, the CCTV does not support Mr Talagi's claim to police that all they did was corner the young person and speak with him while they held him.

[5] I am satisfied that a reasonable person would consider Mr Talagi's conduct both in assaulting the young person 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. Misconduct is a discretionary ground for the cancellation of Mr Talagi's COA.

[6] Prior to the hearing Mr Talagi emailed the PSPLA stating he had lost his security job and no longer required his COA. He was advised that if he wanted to surrender his COA, he needed to post his security ID to the Authority. Mr Talagi has neither done this nor provided any other response to the police complaint.

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

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

- a) Mr Talagi's certificate of approval is cancelled effective immediately.
- b) Mr Talagi 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