

## State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

PO BOX 360 TRENTON, N.J. 08625-0360

PHILIP D. MURPHY Governor

SHEILA Y. OLIVER Lt. Governor JUDITH M. PERSICHILLI, RN, BSN, MA Commissioner

April 6, 2022

www.nj.gov/health

Antero Tito Jackson Jr.

## Re: Notice of Proposed Revocation of EMT Certification Investigation Control # 2020-0106V EMS ID # 563734

Dear Mr. Jackson:

The New Jersey Department of Health (Department) is vested with the responsibility of carrying out the provisions of the Health Care Facilities Planning Act, <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 26:2H-1 to -27, which was enacted, in part, to ensure that all hospital and related health care services rendered in the State of New Jersey are of the highest quality. As defined at <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 26:2H-2(b), health care services include any pre-hospital care rendered by Basic Life Support (BLS) personnel. In addition, the Emergency Medical Services Act, <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 26:2K-7 to -69, authorizes the Department to certify Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs). In furtherance of the objectives set forth in the statutes, the Department has adopted regulations that govern the training, certification and professional conduct of EMTs and EMT candidates. (See <u>N.J.A.C.</u> 8:40A-1.1 <u>et seq.</u>)

On August 21, 2020, the Department's Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) received notification that you were charged with a crime. Consistent with OEMS regulatory authority and policy, the OEMS opened an investigation in response to this notification.

Upon opening the investigation, the OEMS investigator confirmed that you have been certified by the OEMS as an EMT since June 30, 1985. Further, the investigator confirmed that you were arrested on July 30, 2020, and charged with the following under Complaint No. 2020-000057 in Millstone, New Jersey:

- 1. Burglary, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:18-2(a)(1);
- 2. Theft by extortion, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:20-5(c);
- 3. Seven (7) counts of invasion of privacy, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:14-9(b)(1); and
- 4. Harassment, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:33-4(c).

The charges were based on allegations that you entered a residential structure, which you were not authorized to enter, with the intention to remove personal tools and work equipment that was deemed the lawful property of the victim. Furthermore, you allegedly attempted to extort the victim by threatening to divulge and expose intimate sexual videos and pictures of the victim to the public.

At this point in the investigation, the OEMS determined that you were an immediate and serious risk to public health, safety, and welfare. Consequently, the OEMS summarily suspended your EMT certification on October 22, 2020.

After issuing you a summary suspension, the OEMS continued with its investigation into this matter. From its continued investigation, the OEMS investigators learned the above charges were resolved on July 27, 2021, when you plead guilty to one count of Invasion of Privacy in violation of <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 2C:14-9(b)(1), as amended to include all victims, date ranges, and locations. Additionally, you plead guilty to Contempt in violation of <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 2C:29-9A. On December 10, 2021, were you sentenced to five years of probation and monetary fines.

As you are aware, EMTs are placed in a position of trust by the general public. They must work in two-person teams to respond effectively to emergencies and must make important medical assessments and carry out appropriate medical interventions at motor vehicle accidents, in people's homes, and at other difficult field locations. In order to effectively care for all patients, EMTs must exercise good judgment and treat patients with dignity and respect, including maintaining patient privacy and protecting confidential patient information. EMTs are entrusted by the public to be there in times of need. Thus, EMTs must trust each other and be trusted by patients, police officers, firefighters, doctors, and other professionals. In short, EMTs must be law-abiding and must be trusted to care for all patients in an appropriate, safe manner.

Based upon the foregoing, the Department has determined that your EMT certification should be **revoked**. Pursuant to <u>N.J.A.C.</u> 8:40A-10.2(b), the Commissioner, or his or her designee, may revoke the certification of an EMT for violation of any of the rules set forth in this chapter. This shall include, but is not limited to:

- 12. Conviction of any crime; and
- 24. Any other action deemed by the Department to pose a threat to public health, safety, or welfare.

The above actions resulting in your criminal conviction demonstrate that you not only have poor judgment and a lack of trustworthiness but that you pose a threat to patients in need of emergency medical care. Indeed, ensuring patient privacy and maintaining patient information in a confidential manner is part and parcel of the effective provision of emergency medical care. See <u>N.J.A.C.</u> 8:40-6.4; <u>N.J.A.C.</u> 8:40-3.9. Because your conviction involves the invasion of individuals' privacy, the Department finds that your actions and behaviors are incompatible with the duties of an EMT. Consequently, the Department finds that your continued certification as an EMT constitutes a threat to public health, safety, and welfare. For these same reasons, the Department also finds, under <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 45:1-21.5, that your conviction has a substantial relationship to the duties of an EMT and, due to the nature of your conviction, your continued certification as an EMT is inconsistent with the public's health, safety, and welfare. **Therefore, the Department proposes to revoke your certification as an EMT**.

Pursuant to <u>N.J.S.A</u>. 52:14B-11, <u>N.J.S.A</u>. 45:1-21.5, and <u>N.J.A.C</u>. 8:40A-10.3(b), you may request a hearing before the Office of Administrative Law to contest this Department's decision to revoke your EMT certification. Your request for a hearing on this matter must be submitted in writing and must be accompanied by a response to the charges contained herein. **You are also reminded that your EMT certification remains under a summary suspension and, as a result, you are PROHIBITED from acting in the capacity of an EMT.** If you wish to

request a hearing, please include the control number **2020-0106V** on your correspondence, and forward your request to:

## New Jersey Department of Health Office of Legal & Regulatory Compliance P.O. Box 360 Trenton, NJ 08625-0360

Failure to submit a written request for a hearing within thirty (30) days from the date of this notice shall be interpreted as an acceptance of this Department's decision to revoke your EMT certification, thereby negating any further appeal rights and converting this action into a final agency decision. If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Daniel Kazar at (609) 633-7777 or via email at Daniel.Kazar@doh.nj.gov.

Sincerely,

Terry Clancy, PhD, RN, NRP Director Office of Emergency Medical Services

c: Candace Gardner, Program Manager, OEMS Daniel Kazar, Acting Chief, Education, Licensure, and Enforcement, OEMS Zachary Raab, Investigator, OEMS NREMT File

SENT VIA REGULAR U.S. MAIL AND CERTIFIED MAIL #