BEFORE THE GUAM CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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IN THE MATTER OF:

CHRISTOPHER M. SANTOS,

Employee,

VS.

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS,

Management.

ADVERSE ACTION APPEAL CASE

NO.: 20-AA13T

DECISION AND ORDER

INTRODUCTION

This matter came before the Commission on February 24, 2022, to hear Management's Motion to Determine the Burden of Proof as Substantial Evidence. Employee did not file any opposition to this motion at any time prior to or as of the motion hearing.

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Present at the motion hearing on February 24, 2022, was Chairman Juan K. Calvo, Vice Chairman John Smith, Commissioner Priscilla T. Tuncap, Commissioner Anthony P. Benavente, and Commissioner Robert Taitano. Employee was present and was represented by Robert Koss of the Guam Federation of Teachers. Department of Corrections (DOC) Deputy Director Robert Camacho was present and represented by AAG Donna Lawrence.

Facts/Background

Employee was personally served with a Notice of Final Adverse Action on December 14, 2020 which set forth charges against him, among others, that he committed; promoted prison contraband and official misconduct, in addition to violating DOC rules, policies and Executive orders on or about September 19, 2020.

On or about September 19, 2020, Employee's bag was subject to an unannounced administrative search. In that search, five (5) cans of Copenhagen chewing tobacco were found in his bag along with other

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unauthorized food items he indicated he was bringing in for prisoners without going through proper channels. Bringing in these items violates DOC policies, orders and Guam law as set forth in Management's adverse actions and its motion filing.

Management's proposed and final adverse actions found that Employee possessed and brought tobacco onto the grounds of a detention facility or attempted to bring these items into a detention facility for his personal use and that of prisoners. DOC is a smoke-free and tobacco-free facility. In his internal affair' interview which is set forth in the adverse action documents, Employee admitted to knowing his conduct was not authorized and that it was wrong.

As set forth in the proposed and final adverse actions, Employee's conduct was unauthorized. Among other violations, he was charged with violating Department of Administration Personnel Rules (11.402, Conduct (A) Criminal/Dishonest and notoriously disgraceful conduct), Executive Orders 2007-18 (Government of Guam Executive Branch Tobacco Free Workplace Environmental Departmental Policy), 88-19, Guam civil statute 10 GCA, Chapter 90 (Natasha Protection Act), General Orders 20000-01

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(Inmate/Detainee; Outgoing/Incoming of Authorized Items) and 2003-01 (DOC), and Guam's criminal statutes, 9 GCA, §49.90 (official misconduct) and 9 GCA, §58.60 (promoting prison contraband).

Ruling as to Burden of Proof

After reviewing Management's motion, including all attachments, and after listening to the arguments of the parties, the Commissioners found by a vote of 5 to 0 that the burden of proof at a future merit hearing shall be substantial evidence relating to Employee's conduct on or about September 19, 2020.

The lower burden of proof of substantial evidence is warranted by 4 GCA, §4407 (c), the Port Authority v Civil Service Commission (Javelosa), 2018 Guam 9 decision (attached to Management's motion), and by the facts and charges set forth in Management's Notice of Proposed and Final Adverse Actions attached to Management's motion filing on January 5, 2022, including but not limited to, the potential criminal conduct and charges set forth in those actions; 9 GCA, §58.60 (promoting prison contraband) and 9 GCA, §49.90 (official misconduct). As indicated by

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training provided to the Commissioners and as set forth in *Javelosa*, the Commission finds that no criminal charges are required to be filed against an employee for the lower burden of proof to apply.

SO ORDERED this 15th day of March, 2022.

(ABSENT)

JUAN K. CALVO

Chairman

PRISCILLA TUNCAP

Commissioner

ANTHONY P. BENAVENTE

Commissioner

Chairman

ROBERT C. TAITANO

Commissioner

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