

IOWA LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY COUNCIL
CAMP DODGE
P.O. BOX 130
JOHNSTON, IOWA 50131-0130

REQUEST FOR WAIVER IN THE MATTER OF: AARON CRONK, Petitioner.	ORDER RE: WAIVER REQUEST
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The Iowa Law Enforcement Academy Council ("Council") received a waiver request pursuant to Iowa Administrative Code rule 501-16.5 from Petitioner. The Petitioner requested waiver of Iowa Administrative Code rule 501-10.1(5), which states in part:

In no case shall any person hereafter be selected or appointed as a reserve peace officer unless the person:

Is of good moral character as determined by a thorough background investigation, including a fingerprint search conducted on local, state and national fingerprint files, and has not been convicted or adjudicated of any offense listed in 501-2.1(5)"a".

The Petitioner was pro se. The Council has authority under 501 Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 16 to initiate waiver proceedings upon application. The matter was heard on June 4, 2026. Petitioner appeared and testified at the informal proceeding.

FACTS

Petitioner pled guilty to possession or carrying a dangerous weapon while under the influence in 2023. After the conviction, Petitioner was convicted for open container, operating without a registration or plate, and driving while denied or suspended in 2024. Petitioner admitted that the convictions were not that long ago, but stated he has since made better life choices. He no longer goes to bars or out just to drink. He continues drinking socially. He stated he is now focused on his family life and spends time with family or friends from work. Petitioner completed his requirements from his court orders, but has not taken any additional steps that demonstrate rehabilitation.

The Petitioner seeks a waiver of Iowa Administrative Code rule 501-10.1(5) so he may eligible to become certified as a reserve peace officer in Iowa.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Pursuant to Iowa Administrative Code rule 501-16.3, the Council must find by clear and convincing evidence:

1. The application of the rule would impose an undue hardship on the person for whom the waiver is requested;
2. The waiver from the requirements of the rule in the specific case would not prejudice the substantial legal rights of any person;
3. The provisions of the rule subject to the petition for a waiver are not specifically mandated by statute or another provision of law; and
4. Substantially equal protection of public health, safety, and welfare will be afforded by a means other than that prescribed in the particular rule for which the waiver is requested.

The Council must find all four factors exist in order to grant the petition for waiver. *Id.* In addition, the Council is required to consider the following factors as a part of factor 4:

1. The nature and seriousness of the crime;
2. The time elapsed since the crime was committed;
3. The degree of rehabilitation which has taken place since the crime was committed;
4. The likelihood that the person will commit the same crime again;
5. The number of criminal convictions; and
6. Such additional factors as may in a particular case demonstrate mitigating circumstances or heightened risk to public safety.

Iowa Admin. Code r. 501-2.1(5)(b). The Council must also determine the length of the waiver unless a specified time period is unrealistic. Iowa Admin. Code r. 501-16.9(6).

Iowa Administrative Code rule 501-1.1 defines "convicted" or "conviction" as "a finding of guilt, a plea of guilty, a deferred judgment, a deferred or suspended sentence, and an adjudication of delinquency as a juvenile." Within Iowa Administrative Code rule 501-2.1(5), moral turpitude is defined as "an act of baseness, vileness, or depravity in the private and social duties which a person owes to another person, or to society in general, contrary to the accepted and customary rule of right and duty between person and person. It is conduct that is contrary to justice, honesty or good morals." The definition of moral turpitude specifically includes any offense involving a weapon. Iowa Admin. Code r. 501-2.1(5)(a)(6).

APPLICATION OF LAW

The Council has considered all relevant information and applied all applicable law. The Council finds that the Petitioner has not met his burden as outlined above.

First, Petitioner failed to identify that the application of the rule would impose an undue hardship. Petitioner simply stated that he is interested in exploring his interest level in a law enforcement career and believes starting as a reserve officer would allow him to do that. The Council finds this does not constitute an undue hardship.

Second, the Council does not find that granting a waiver would prejudice the substantial legal rights of any person.

Third, the moral character requirement is not mandated by statute or another non-waivable provision of law.

Finally, given the recency of the conviction, the lack of rehabilitative evidence, and the resulting concerns involving Petitioner's judgment, the Council does not find that the public health, safety, and welfare would be adequately protected by a means other than the prescribed moral character rule.

ORDER

THEREFORE, the Petitioner's request for waiver of Iowa Administrative Code rule 501-10.1(5) is denied at this time.

Dated this 10th day of June 2026.



Melissa Henderson, Chair
Iowa Law Enforcement Academy Council

Copy to:

Aaron Cronk
PETITIONER

Appeal Rights

Please see Iowa Admin. Code rule 501-16.15 and Iowa Code section 17A.19 for your appeal rights. Any appeal must be filed within 30 days from the date of the Order.