

**STATE BOARD MEETING DATE**

January 27, 2014

**SUBJECT:** Consideration of Review for **Hazel T. Townsend** Case No. **C-2013-109R**

**SUBMITTED BY:** Charles Easaw, Chief Investigator, Investigative Unit, State Board of Education

**MANAGEMENT TEAM REVIEW:** January 9, 2014

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

**Hazel T. Townsend** applied for a Substitute teaching certificate renewal on August 22, 2013.

Ms. Townsend answered “yes” to the arrest question 4: Have you ever been arrested for any offense for which you were fingerprinted? In her disclosure statement, Ms. Townsend stated that in November 2011 her son was arrested. She attempted to have questions answered by the defense attorney representing her son; however, the attorney was not permitted to provide answers.

On November 15, 2011, the Phoenix Police Department contacted a fourteen-year old female who was an outstanding runaway. The teen advised police that she had been working as a prostitute for a pimp, later identified as Ms. Townsend’s son. During jail calls to her son, he told Ms. Townsend to write down the events that he described to her as to what happened on postcards to send them to his co-defendant. Ms. Townsend agreed to do so. Ms. Townsend was arrested on or about March 5, 2012, on a charge of Tampering with a Witness. On June 26, 2012, Ms. Townsend pled guilty to one count of Tampering with a Witness, a Class 1 Misdemeanor. She accepted one year of unsupervised probation, substance abuse counseling, and 36 hours of community restitution – all of which she completed.

Other criminal misconduct:

- On March 14, 2007, Ms. Townsend disclosed a September, 1971 arrest for shoplifting in DeKalb, IL. Her application for certification was reviewed and approved.

Ms. Townsend was advised that her application required a review by the Professional Practices Advisory Committee (“PPAC”) of the State Board of Education (“State Board”). On December 10, 2013, the PPAC conducted a review of Hazel Townsend’s application.

The PPAC found the following aggravating factor:

- Arrest History

The PPAC found the following mitigating factors:

- Letters of recommendation
- Length of time since her last arrest.
- Candor on her current application and at the committee’s meeting.

By a vote of 3 to 1, the PPAC recommended that the state Board **grant Hazel T. Townsend’s** application for certification.

**BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:** [ ] INFORMATION [X] ACTION/DESCRIBED BELOW:

That the Board accept the findings of facts, conclusions of law, and the recommendation of the PPAC to **grant Hazel T. Townsend's** application for certification.

**ATTACHMENTS: YES [X] NO [ ]**