

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD,)	
Complainant,)	
)	Docket Number: 2025-0114
vs.)	
)	Enforcement Activity Number: 8082127
LARON SHAREED JAMES,)	
Respondent.)	

CONSENT ORDER

Issued: May 2, 2025

By Order of Administrative Law Judge: Hon. Jennifer A. Mehaffey

Appearances:

For the Coast Guard

LT Amanda Barnett
USCG Sector Jacksonville

Daniel B. Schaefer, Esq.
Andrew S. Myers, Esq.
USCG Suspension and Revocation National Center of Expertise

For the Respondent

Laron Shareed James, *Pro se*

CONSENT ORDER APPROVING SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

On April 17, 2025, the Coast Guard filed its First Amended Complaint against Laron Shareed James (Respondent) seeking 24 months outright suspension of his Merchant Mariner Credential. Also on April 17, 2025, the Coast Guard filed a Joint Amended Motion for Consent Order and Approval of Settlement Agreement, containing the Settlement Agreement to be approved as a settlement of this case under 33 C.F.R. § 20.502.¹

As evidenced by their respective signature, the parties assert that settlement is in the public interest and appropriate based on Respondent's cooperation and good faith efforts towards remediation. The parties also agree the entry of a Consent Order approving this settlement without further litigation is the proper means of resolution in this matter. Accordingly, the parties have expressly waived their right to a hearing and appeal in this matter and I have not conducted a hearing on the merits of this case. I have carefully reviewed the terms of the Settlement Agreement and find that it is fair, reasonable, and in substantial compliance with the requirements of 33 C.F.R. § 20.502.

¹ This is the parties' second submission of the Complaint and their Motion for Approval of Settlement Agreement and Entry of Consent Order (Motion). On March 26, 2025, I held a telephonic pre-hearing conference to address my concerns with the Complaint and discuss several inconsistencies within the Motion. On March 27, 2025, I issued an Order memorializing the pre-hearing conference and denying the Coast Guard's Motion.

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, the Motion for Approval of Settlement Agreement and Entry of Consent Order is **GRANTED**, and the Settlement Agreement is **APPROVED** in full and incorporated herein by reference. This Consent Order shall constitute full, final, and complete adjudication of this proceeding.

Done and dated May 2, 2025
New York, NY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Mehafeey", is written over a faint, light blue circular stamp. The signature is fluid and cursive.

HON. JENNIFER A. MEHAFFEY
Administrative Law Judge
United States Coast Guard