

STATE OF FLORIDA  
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS

THERESA WILLIAMS,

EEOC Case No. NONE

Petitioner,

FCHR Case No. 2014-00621

v.

DOAH Case No. 14-4994

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF  
CORRECTIONS,

FCHR Order No. 15-056

Respondent.

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**FINAL ORDER DISMISSING PETITION FOR  
RELIEF FROM AN UNLAWFUL EMPLOYMENT PRACTICE**

Preliminary Matters

Petitioner Theresa Williams filed a complaint of discrimination pursuant to the Florida Civil Rights Act of 1992, Sections 760.01 - 760.11, Florida Statutes (2012), alleging that Respondent Florida Department of Corrections committed an unlawful employment practice by terminating Petitioner in retaliation for Petitioner's participation as a witness during an investigation of another employee's discrimination claim.

The allegations set forth in the complaint were investigated, and, on September 19, 2014, the Executive Director issued a determination finding that there was reasonable cause to believe that an unlawful employment practice had occurred.

Petitioner filed a Petition for Relief from an Unlawful Employment Practice, and the case was transmitted to the Division of Administrative Hearings for the conduct of a formal proceeding.

An evidentiary hearing was held in Bushnell, Florida, on March 24, 2015, before Administrative Law Judge James H. Peterson, III.

Judge Peterson issued a Recommended Order of dismissal, dated June 30, 2015.

The Commission panel designated below considered the record of this matter and determined the action to be taken on the Recommended Order.

Findings of Fact

We find the Administrative Law Judge's findings of fact to be supported by competent substantial evidence.

We adopt the Administrative Law Judge's findings of fact.

Conclusions of Law

We find the Administrative Law Judge's application of the law to the facts to result in a correct disposition of the matter.

We adopt the Administrative Law Judge's conclusions of law.

Exceptions

Neither of the parties filed exceptions to the Administrative Law Judge's Recommended Order.

Dismissal

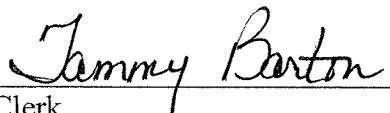
The Petition for Relief and Complaint of Discrimination are DISMISSED with prejudice.

The parties have the right to seek judicial review of this Order. The Commission and the appropriate District Court of Appeal must receive notice of appeal within 30 days of the date this Order is filed with the Clerk of the Commission. Explanation of the right to appeal is found in Section 120.68, Florida Statutes, and in the Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure 9.110.

DONE AND ORDERED this 17 day of Sept., 2015.  
FOR THE FLORIDA COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS:

Commissioner Michael Keller, Panel Chairperson;  
Commissioner J. Jeff Graber; and  
Commissioner Rebecca Steele

Filed this 17 day of Sept., 2015,  
in Tallahassee, Florida.

  
Clerk  
Commission on Human Relations  
4075 Esplanade Way, Room 110  
Tallahassee, FL 32399  
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Copies furnished to:

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James H. Peterson, III, Administrative Law Judge, DOAH

James Mallue, Legal Advisor for Commission Panel

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a copy of the foregoing has been mailed to the above listed addressees this 17 day of Sept., 2015.

By: Jimmy Barton  
Clerk of the Commission  
Florida Commission on Human Relations