STATE OF FLORIDA COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS

SHARON SINGLETON,

EEOC Case No. 15D201400710

Petitioner,

v.

ESCAMBIA COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT,

DOAH Case No. 15-1800 FCHR Order No. 16-008

FCHR Case No. 2014-01533

Respondent.

FINAL ORDER DISMISSING PETITION FOR RELIEF FROM AN UNLAWFUL EMPLOYMENT PRACTICE

Preliminary Matters

Petitioner Sharon Singleton filed a complaint of discrimination pursuant to the Florida Civil Rights Act of 1992, Sections 760.01 - 760.11, <u>Florida Statutes</u> (2013), alleging that Respondent Escambia County School District committed unlawful employment practices on the basis of Petitioner's age (DOB: 8-6-52) when it isolated, demoted, and unfairly disciplined Petitioner and terminated / forced Petitioner to resign.

The allegations set forth in the complaint were investigated, and, on February 24, 2015, the Executive Director issued a determination finding that there was no 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 Pensacola, Florida, on August 6, 2015, before Administrative Law Judge Robert S. Cohen.

Judge Cohen issued a Recommended Order of dismissal, dated December 11, 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.

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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.

<u>Dismissal</u>

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, <u>Florida Statutes</u>, and in the Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure 9.110.

DONE AND ORDERED this 12 day of <u>*Jebruary*</u>, 2016. FOR THE FLORIDA COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS:

> Commissioner Rebecca Steele, Panel Chairperson; Commissioner Tony Jenkins; and Commissioner Jay Pichard

Filed this 12 day of <u>February</u>, 2016, in Tallahassee, Florida.

mmy

Clerk Commission on Human Relations 4075 Esplanade Way, Room 110 Tallahassee, FL 32399 (850) 488-7082

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Copies furnished to:

Sharon Singleton c/o Ryan M. Barnett, Esq. Whibbs & Stone, P.A. 801 West Romana St., Unit C Pensacola, FL 32502

Escambia County School District c/o Joseph L. Hammons, Esq. The Hammons Law Firm, P.A. 17 West Cervantes St. Pensacola, FL 32501

Robert S. Cohen, 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 <u>17</u> day of <u>Jebruary</u>, 2016.

By:

Clerk of the Commission Florida Commission on Human Relations