STATE OF FLORIDA COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS

RHONDA R. WILKINSON,

Petitioner,

FCHR Case No. 15D201600278

POAH Case No. 2016-00629

DOAH Case No. 16-5773

PUBLIX SUPER MARKETS, INC.,

Respondent.

FINAL ORDER DISMISSING PETITION FOR RELIEF FROM AN UNLAWFUL EMPLOYMENT PRACTICE

Preliminary Matters

Petitioner Rhonda R. Wilkinson filed a complaint of discrimination pursuant to the Florida Civil Rights Act of 1992, Sections 760.01 - 760.11, <u>Florida Statutes</u> (2015), alleging that Respondent Publix Super Markets, Inc., committed an unlawful employment practice on the basis of Petitioner's sex (female) by terminating Petitioner from employment.

The allegations set forth in the complaint were investigated, and, on August 29, 2016, 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 by video teleconference at sites in Panama City and Tallahassee, Florida, on November 16, 2016, before Administrative Law Judge Suzanne Van Wyk.

Judge Van Wyk issued a Recommended Order of dismissal, dated January 17, 2017.

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

DONE AND ORDERED this 30 day of Mach, 2017. FOR THE FLORIDA COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS:

Commissioner Tony Jenkins, Panel Chairperson; Commissioner Jay Pichard; and Commissioner Sandra Turner

Filed this <u>30</u> day of <u>March</u>, 2017, in Tallahassee, Florida.

Clerk

Commission on Human Relations 4075 Esplanade Way, Room 110 Tallahassee, FL 32399

(850) 488-7082

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Copies furnished to:

Rhonda R. Wilkinson c/o Robert L. Thirston, II, Esq. Thirston Law Office Post Office Box 19617 Panama City Beach, FL 32417

Publix Super Markets, Inc. c/o Tammy L. Rattray, Esq. Ford & Harrison, LLP 101 East Kennedy Boulevard, Ste. 900 Tampa, FL 33602

Suzanne Van Wyk, 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 30 day of 70m/h, 2017.

By: <u>Jammy Carton</u>
Clerk of the Commission

Florida Commission on Human Relations