STATE OF FLORIDA COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS

METI J. FERGUSON,

Petitioner,

v.

CTI RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SERVICES,

Respondent.

EEOC Case No. 510201600195

FCHR Case No. 2016-00358

DOAH Case No. 16-6631

FCHR Order No. 17-042

FINAL ORDER DISMISSING PETITION FOR RELIEF FROM AN UNLAWFUL EMPLOYMENT PRACTICE

Preliminary Matters

Petitioner Meti J. Ferguson filed a complaint of discrimination pursuant to the Florida Civil Rights Act of 1992, Sections 760.01 - 760.11, <u>Florida Statutes (2015)</u>, alleging that Respondent CTI Resource Management Services, committed an unlawful employment practice on the basis of Petitioner's race (Black) by terminating Petitioner from employment.

The allegations set forth in the complaint were investigated, and, on October 14, 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 Jacksonville and Tallahassee, Florida, on January 24, 2017, before Administrative Law Judge W. David Watkins.

Judge Watkins issued a Recommended Order of dismissal, dated March 24, 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.

Filed June 15, 2017 12:13 PM Division of Administrative Hearings

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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.

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 15 day of , 2017. FOR THE FLORIDA COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS:

Commissioner Rebecca Steele, Panel Chairperson; Commissioner Derick Daniel; and Commissioner Sandra Turner

Filed this 15 day of in Tallahassee, Florida.

Commission on Human Relations 4075 Esplanade Way, Room 110 Tallahassee, FL 3239 (850) 488-7082 FCHR Order No. 17-042 Page 3

Copies furnished to:

Meti J. Ferguson 200 Crete Court St. Augustine, FL 32084

CTI Resource Management Services c/o Peter R. Corbin, Esq. FordHarrison LLP 225 Water Street, Ste. 170 Jacksonville, FL 32202

W. David Watkins, Administrative Law Judge, DOAH

Radhika Puri, Legal Advisor for Commission Panel

I HEREBY CERTIEX that a copy of the foregoing has been mailed to the above listed addressees this 3 day of 3 day of

By: Jainny Barton

Clerk of the Commission Florida Commission on Human Relations