

STATE OF FLORIDA  
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS

EVERDAN SALES CORREIA,

HUD Case No. 04-17-5753-8

Petitioner,

FCHR Case No. 2017H0415

v.

DOAH Case No. 17-2569

ST. MONICA GARDENS, INC.,

FCHR Order No. 17-079

Respondent.

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**FINAL ORDER DISMISSING PETITION FOR  
RELIEF FROM A DISCRIMINATORY HOUSING PRACTICE**

Preliminary Matters

Petitioner Everdan Sales Correia filed a housing discrimination complaint pursuant to the Fair Housing Act, Sections 760.20 - 760.37, Florida Statutes (2016), alleging that Respondent St. Monica Gardens, Inc., committed discriminatory housing practices on the basis of Petitioner's national origin (Brazilian) by treating Cuban residents preferentially to Petitioner and by retaliating against Petitioner for complaining about the alleged discrimination by issuing Petitioner a lease violation notice.

The allegations set forth in the complaint were investigated, and, on March 31, 2017, the Executive Director issued a determination finding that there was no reasonable cause to believe that a discriminatory housing practice had occurred.

Petitioner filed a Petition for Relief from a Discriminatory Housing 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 Miami and Tallahassee, Florida, on July 6, 2017, before Administrative Law Judge Robert E. Meale.

Judge Meale issued a Recommended Order of dismissal, dated August 2, 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

A transcript of the proceeding before the Administrative Law Judge was not filed with the Commission. In the absence of a transcript of the proceeding before the Administrative Law Judge, the Recommended Order is the only evidence for the Commission to consider. See National Industries, Inc. v. Commission on Human Relations, et al., 527 So. 2d 894, at 897, 898 (Fla. 5th DCA 1988). Accord, Coleman v.

Daytona Beach, Ocean Center Parking Garage, FCHR Order No. 14-034 (September 10, 2014), Gantz, et al. v. Zion's Hope, Inc., d/b/a Holy Land Experience, FCHR Order No. 11-048 (June 6, 2011), and Hall v. Villages of West Oaks HOA, FCHR Order No. 08-007 (January 14, 2008).

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 Housing Discrimination Complaint 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 12 day of October, 2017.  
FOR THE FLORIDA COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS:

Commissioner Rebecca Steele, Panel Chairperson;  
Commissioner Derick Daniel; and  
Commissioner Latanya Peterson

Filed this 12 day of October, 2017,  
in Tallahassee, Florida.



Clerk  
Commission on Human Relations  
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Copies furnished to:


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Robert E. Meale, 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 12 day of October, 2017.

By:   
Clerk of the Commission  
Florida Commission on Human Relations