# STATE OF FLORIDA COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS

HENRY SMITH,	
Petitioner,	FCHR Case No. 2018-05373
v.	DOAH Case No. 18-5427
7-ELEVEN, INC.,	FCHR Order No. 19-040
Respondent.	/

## FINAL ORDER DISMISSING PETITION FOR RELIEF FROM AN UNLAWFUL PUBLIC ACCOMMODATIONS PRACTICE

## **Preliminary Matters**

Petitioner Henry Smith filed a complaint of discrimination pursuant to the Florida Civil Rights Act of 1992, Sections 509.092 and 760.01 - 760.11, Florida Statutes (2017), alleging that Respondent 7-Eleven, Inc., committed an unlawful public accommodations practice by denying him service at its gasoline station on the basis of his disability.

The allegations set forth in the complaint were investigated, and, on September 19, 2018, the Executive Director issued a determination finding that there was reasonable cause to believe that an unlawful public accommodations practice had occurred.

Petitioner filed a Petition for Relief 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 Lauderdale Lakes and Tallahassee, Florida, on January 17, 2019, before Administrative Law Judge Cathy M. Sellers.

Judge Sellers issued a Recommended Order of dismissal, dated March 12, 2019. 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.

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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 <u>28</u> day of <u>May</u>, 2019. FOR THE FLORIDA COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS:

> Commissioner Tony Jenkins, Panel Chairperson; Commissioner Donna Elam; and Commissioner Rebecca Steele

Filed this 28 day of May, 2019,

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:

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7-Eleven, Inc. c/o Kelly H. Kolb, Esq. Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC 401 East Las Olas Boulevard, Suite 2250 Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

Cathy M. Sellers, Administrative Law Judge, DOAH

Stanley Gorsica, Legal Advisor for Commission Panel

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a copy of the foregoing has been mailed to the above listed addressees this 28 day of 2019.

Clerk of the Commission

Florida Commission on Human Relations