

STATE OF FLORIDA  
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS

LAVENDER SUAREZ,

FCHR No. 201914951

Petitioner,

DOAH Case No. 19-5889

v.

FCHR Order No. 21-053

SARASOTA COUNTY GOVERNMENT,

Respondent.

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**FINAL ORDER DISMISSING PETITION FOR RELIEF FROM AN UNLAWFUL  
EMPLOYMENT PRACTICE DUE TO SETTLEMENT**

On August 16, 2018, Petitioner Lavender Suarez filed a complaint of discrimination against Respondent, Sarasota County Government, alleging discrimination based on race, gender, and retaliation, pursuant to the Florida Civil Rights Act of 1992, Sections 760.01 - 760.11, Florida Statutes (2017).

According to Petitioner, she was a Fiscal Manager (Manager II) with Respondent. Complainant alleged that Respondent subjected her to disparate treatment. The alleged disparate treatment included Respondent forcing Complainant to resign without providing Complainant with an action plan or performance improvement plan.

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 on February 4, 2020, before Administrative Law Judge Hetal Desai.

Judge Desai issued a Recommended Order finding that an unlawful employment practice occurred, dated July 15, 2020.

The Commission issued an "Interlocutory Order Finding That an Unlawful Employment Practice Occurred and Remanding Case to Administrative Law Judge to Determine the Amount of Costs, Including Attorney's Fees, Owed to Petitioner", FCHR Order No. 21-033, dated May 5, 2021.

On May 7, 2021, Judge Desai issued a Notice of Reopening Case and Initial Order Regarding Fees and Costs.

On May 25, 2021, Judge Desai issued an Order to Show Cause.

The parties, on June 4, 2021, filed with the Division of Administrative Hearings a Joint Stipulation Resolving Fees and Costs. In the stipulation, the parties indicated that the Sarasota County Board of County Commissioners had agreed to pay Petitioner \$36,550.00, and pay attorney's fees and costs of \$32,058.80, for a total of \$68,608.80. According to the stipulation, Respondent "resolved all outstanding issues" by issuing a check on October 1, 2020, in the amount of \$68,608.80, to Petitioner's counsel which paid Petitioner and paid attorney's fees and costs. The parties requested that the case be closed.

Judge Desai issued an Order Closing File and Relinquishing Jurisdiction on June 7, 2021.

Dismissal

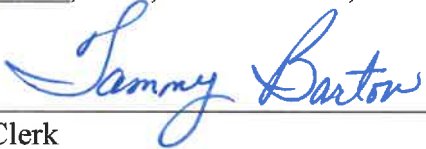
The Petition for Relief and Complaint of Discrimination are DISMISSED with prejudice due to settlement.

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 of appeal is found in Section 120.68, Florida Statutes, and in the Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure 9.110.

DONE AND ORDERED this 19 day of August, 2021.  
FOR THE FLORIDA COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS:

Commissioner Darrick McGhee, Panel Chairperson  
Commissioner Libby Farmer; and  
Commissioner Angela Primiano

Filed this 19 day of August, 2021, in Tallahassee, Florida.

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

Copies furnished to:

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Sarasota, Florida 34236

Hetal Desai, Administrative Law Judge, DOAH

John Scotese, Legal Advisor for Commission Panel

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a copy of the foregoing has been mailed to the above listed addressees this 19 day of August, 2021.

By:   
Clerk of the Commission  
Florida Commission on Human Relations