



## CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

DEPARTMENT OF CITY CIVIL SERVICE  
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CITY CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION  
BRITTNEY RICHARDSON, CHAIRPERSON  
JOHN H. KORN, VICE-CHAIRPERSON  
MARK SURPRENANT  
RUTH WHITE DAVIS  
ANDREW MONTEVERDE

AMY TREPAGNIER  
DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL

Tuesday, April 23, 2024

Ms. Rhonda Oliver

Re: **Rhonda Oliver VS.  
Department of Finance  
Docket Number: 9556**

Dear Ms. Oliver:

Attached is the action of the Civil Service Commission at the Commission's meeting on Friday, 4/12/2024.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stacie Joseph".

Stacie Joseph  
Management Services Division

cc: Norman White  
Jasmine L. Bandy  
file

An Equal Opportunity Employer

**CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION  
CITY OF NEW ORLEANS**

**RHONDA OLIVER,  
Appellant**

**Docket No. 9556**

**v.**

**DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE,  
Appointing Authority**

**ORDER**

The Department of Finance filed a motion for summary disposition based on Ms. Oliver’s lack of a right of appeal and the insufficiency of her allegations of a whistleblower appeal. The Department of Finance terminated Ms. Oliver from the position of Tax Specialist I on January 26, 2024. Ms. Oliver has returned to her permanent position as an Office Worker at the Sewerage & Water Board. The Commission heard oral argument on this motion from the Department of Finance and Ms. Oliver at its regular meeting on April 12, 2024. Ms. Oliver appeared *pro se*.

Civil Service Rule II, section 4.1 grants a right of appeal to “[r]egular employees in the classified service.” A “regular employee” is “an employee who has been appointed to a position in the classified service in accordance with the Law and these Rules and who has completed the working test period.” As of August 1, 2023, the default probationary period is one year under Rule VII, section 1.1.

According to the records of the Department of Civil Service, Ms. Oliver began working for the City of New Orleans in the Department of Housing and Urban Development on September 28, 2015, as an Office Assistant Trainee. The Department of Housing and Urban Development promoted her to Office Assistant I, and she obtained permanent status in this position.

She transferred to the Sewerage & Water Board in the promotional position of Office Assistant II (now Office Worker) on October 30, 2021, and she obtained permanent status as an Office Worker on May 31, 2022.

Ms. Oliver transferred back to the City on September 3, 2023, when she began working as a Tax Specialist I in the Department of Finance, a promotion from Office Worker. Although Ms. Oliver has permanent status as an Office Worker, she never obtained permanent status as a Tax Specialist I.

The Department of Finance terminated her employment in this position on January 26, 2024, during her one-year probationary period in that position. She then returned to her permanent position as an Office Worker at the Sewerage & Water Board. Therefore, because she never obtained permanent status in the position of Tax Specialist I, Ms. Oliver has no right to appeal her termination from that position by the Department of Finance under Rule II, section 4.1.

Ms. Oliver has also alleged retaliation for filing a grievance. Rule II, section 10.1 provides as follows:

10.1 No employee shall be subjected to discipline or discriminatory treatment by an appointing authority because he or she gives information, testimony or evidence in a prudent manner to appropriate authorities concerning conduct prohibited by law or regulation which he or she reasonably believes to have been engaged in by any person(s). If the employee incurs such treatment despite this admonition, he or she shall have a right of appeal to this Commission.

Ms. Oliver alleged in her appeal and during oral argument that the Department of Finance terminated her employment as a Tax Specialist I because she filed a grievance pursuant to the employee grievance procedure in CAO Policy Memorandum 4(R), but she failed to allege in the body of her appeal or during oral argument that this grievance concerned any conduct prohibited

by law. Therefore, Ms. Oliver's appeal fails to meet the requirements of a whistleblower appeal under Rule II, section 10.1.

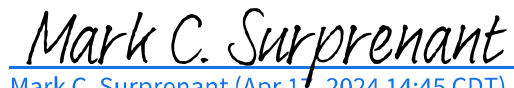
The Commission grants the Department of Finance's motion for summary disposition. Ms. Oliver's appeal shall be dismissed.



J H Korn (Apr 22, 2024 21:32 CDT)

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JOHN KORN, VICE-CHAIRPERSON



Mark C. Surprenant (Apr 17, 2024 14:45 CDT)

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MARK SURPRENANT, COMMISSIONER



Andrew Monteverde (Apr 17, 2024 15:53 CDT)

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ANDREW MONTEVERDE, COMMISSIONER