



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

In the Matter of Stacey Polanco  
Borough of Fair Lawn, Police  
Department

CSC DKT. NO. 2014-3054  
OAL DKT. NO. CSV 07280-14

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**FINAL ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION  
OF THE  
CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION**

**ISSUED: September 30, 2020 BW**

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The appeal of Stacey Polanco, Public Safety Telecommunicator, Borough of Fair Lawn, Police Department, removal effective May 20, 2014, on charges, was heard by Administrative Law Judge Leslie Z. Celentano, who rendered her initial decision on September 11, 2020. No exceptions were filed.

Having considered the record and the Administrative Law Judge's initial decision, and having made an independent evaluation of the record, the Civil Service Commission, at its meeting on September 30, 2020, accepted and adopted the Findings of Fact and Conclusion as contained in the attached Administrative Law Judge's initial decision.

**ORDER**

The Civil Service Commission dismisses the appeal of Stacey Polanco with prejudice.

This is the final administrative determination in this matter. Any further review should be pursued in a judicial forum.

DECISION RENDERED BY THE  
CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION ON  
THE 30<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2020

*Deirdre L. Webster Cobb*

Deirdre L. Webster Cobb  
Acting Chairperson  
Civil Service Commission

Inquiries  
and  
Correspondence

Christopher S. Myers  
Director  
Division of Appeals and Regulatory Affairs  
Civil Service Commission  
Unit H  
P. O. Box 312  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0312

attachment



**State of New Jersey**  
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

**INITIAL DECISION**

**DISMISSAL**

OAL DKT. NO. CSV 07280-14

AGENCY DKT. NO. 2014-3054

**IN THE MATTER OF STACEY POLANCO,  
BOROUGH OF FAIR LAWN POLICE  
DEPARTMENT.**

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**Evan Goldman, Esq.**, for petitioner (Goldman, Davis & Gutfleish, PC, attorneys)

**Mark A. Nehma, Esq.**, for respondent (Cleary Giacobbe Alfieri Jacobs LLC,  
attorneys)

Record Closed: September 10, 2020

Decided: September 11, 2020

**BEFORE LESLIE Z. CELENTANO, ALJ:**

On June 12, 2014, over six years ago, Petitioner appealed her removal by respondent effective May 20, 2014. The matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) on June 12, 2014.

The matter was scheduled for hearing on November 13, 2014, however was adjourned at the request of petitioner, who indicated she had retained new counsel. Petitioner waived back pay at that time. The matter was rescheduled for hearing on January 30, 2015, however that date was adjourned at the request of petitioner, pending

disposition of a subsequently occurring municipal matter. The matter was thereafter adjourned and rescheduled on multiple occasions, at times based upon petitioner's failure to communicate with counsel. Discovery requests were not responded to. A status telephone conference was held on July 27, 2020 during the COVID-19 office closure, and at that time counsel reiterated that he has had no communication with petitioner, and it was agreed that if she did not respond to his further efforts to reach her, the matter would be dismissed on August 28, 2020. Petitioner has not communicated at all with counsel.

On September 1, 2020, counsel for petitioner sought an extension of time, indicating once again that he has had difficulty trying to reach petitioner. Respondent opposed the two week extension sought. The two weeks have now elapsed, and accordingly, based upon all of the foregoing, I **FIND** that this matter should be and is hereby **DISMISSED WITH PREJUDICE**.

I hereby **FILE** my initial decision with the **CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION** for consideration.

This recommended decision may be adopted, modified or rejected by the **CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION**, which by law is authorized to make a final decision in this matter. If the Civil Service Commission does not adopt, modify or reject this decision within forty-five days and unless such time limit is otherwise extended, this recommended decision shall become a final decision in accordance with N.J.S.A. 52:14B-10.

Within thirteen days from the date on which this recommended decision was mailed to the parties, any party may file written exceptions with the **DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF APPEALS AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS, UNIT H, CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION, 44 South Clinton Avenue, PO Box 312, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0312**, marked "Attention: Exceptions." A copy of any exceptions must be sent to the judge and to the other parties.

September 11, 2020  
DATE

  
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LESLIE Z. CELENTANO, ALJ

Date Received at Agency:

September 11, 2020

Date Mailed to Parties:  
dr

September 11, 2020