



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

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

In the Matter of Veterans Service
Officer (C0143C), Passaic County

Appointment Waiver

CSC Docket No. 2022-802

ISSUED: DECEMBER 6, 2021 (BW)

Passaic County requests permission not to make an appointment from the August 31, 2021 certification for Veterans Service Officer (C0143C), Passaic County.

The record reveals that the appointing authority appointed Wilfredo Rodriguez provisionally to the subject title, which generated an open-competitive examination announcement with a closing date of May 21, 2021. The resulting eligible list of 10 names promulgated on August 26, 2021 and expires on August 25, 2024. The appointing authority took no action to prevent the need for the examination at the time of the announcement or prior to the administration of the examination. On August 31, 2021, the names of 10 eligibles were certified to the appointing authority from the eligible list.

The appointing authority returned the certification indicating that a permanent appointment would not be made from the subject list because the provisional appointee was no longer serving.¹ Specifically, it explained it planned on using the list before it expires on August 25, 2024. Accordingly, it requested a waiver of the appointment requirement as well as a waiver of any selection costs.

The appointing authority's request for an appointment waiver was acknowledged, and it was advised that if its request were granted, it could be assessed for the costs of the selection process in the amount of \$2,048. In response, it explained that it is reviewing the position and reporting structure within the organization for the most cost-efficient and effective distribution of services.

¹ Rodriguez was moved to the title of Community Service Worker on September 30, 2021.

It is noted that there are currently no employees serving provisionally pending open competitive examination procedures in the subject title with the appointing authority.

CONCLUSION

In accordance with *N.J.S.A.* 11A:4-5, once the examination process has been initiated due to the appointment of a provisional employee or due to an appointing authority's request for a list to fill a vacancy, the appointing authority must make an appointment from the resulting eligible list if there are three or more interested and eligible candidates. The only exception to this mandate may be made by the Civil Services Commission for a valid reason such as fiscal constraints.

In the instant matter, the examination for the subject title was generated based on the appointing authority's appointment of a provisional employee. However, after a complete certification was issued, the appointing authority requested an appointment waiver. The appointing authority indicated that the provisional employee was no longer serving in the title and it plans on using the list before it expires on August 25, 2024. Under these circumstances, the appointing authority has presented adequate justification for granting an appointment waiver.

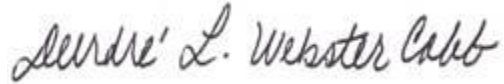
Although the appointment waiver is granted, both *N.J.S.A.* 11A:4-5 and *N.J.A.C.* 4A:10-2.2(a)2 state that if an appointing authority receives permission not to make an appointment, it can be ordered to reimburse the costs of the selection process. While administering examinations and providing the names of eligible job candidates to the jurisdictions under the Civil Service system are two of the primary activities of this agency, these costly efforts are thwarted when appointing authorities fail to utilize the resulting eligible lists to make appointments and candidates have needlessly expended their time, effort and money to take these examinations in hopes of being considered for a permanent appointment. However, the appointing authority indicates that it plans to utilize the subject list prior to its expiration date of August 25, 2024. Accordingly, under the particular circumstances of this matter, it would not be appropriate to assess the appointing authority for the costs of the selection process at this time. Nevertheless, in the event the appointing authority fails to utilize the list by its expiration date of August 25, 2024, this matter can be reviewed to ascertain whether an assessment for the costs of the selection process should be made.

ORDER

Therefore, it is ordered that the request for the waiver of the appointment requirement be granted and no selection costs presently be assessed.

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 1ST DAY OF DECEMBER 2021



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