



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

Philip D. Murphy
Governor
Tahesha Way, Esq.
Lt. Governor

Allison Chris Myers
Chair/Chief Executive Officer

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF
THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION**

SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

Allison Chris Myers, Chairperson
Dolores Gorczyca
Daniel O'Mullan
Diomedes Tsitouras
Christina Mongon

SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

A regular meeting of the Civil Service Commission was held on Wednesday, September 20, 2023, at 10:00 a.m., in Trenton, New Jersey.

PRESENT: Allison Chris Myers, Chairperson; Members Dolores Gorczyca, Daniel O'Mullan, Diomedes Tsitouras and Christina Mongon; Levi Klinger-Christiansen, Deputy Attorney General; Nicholas F. Angiulo, Director, Division of Appeals and Regulatory Affairs; Annemarie Ragos, Commission Secretary. All individuals listed participated via teleconference.

In accordance with L.1975, c.231, the Secretary to the Civil Service Commission opened the meeting with the following statement:

Notice of this meeting was filed with the Secretary of State and sent to the Trentonian, Trenton Times, Courier-Post and Star Ledger on November 23, 2022, and posted at the Civil Service Commission, 3 Station Plaza, Trenton, New Jersey.

All actions were by unanimous vote unless otherwise specified.

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION MINUTES

Submitted for adoption are the Civil Service Commission minutes of its meeting of August 23, 2023.

ACTION: The Civil Service Commission adopted the minutes of its meeting of August 23, 2023.

WITHDRAWAL OF APPEALS

The following appeals were withdrawn and removed from the hearing calendar:

Alterton Beverley, Laborer 1, Plainfield Housing Authority, suspension.

Steven Kranz, Police Sergeant, Hoboken, Department of Public Safety, suspension.

Helen Ford, County Correctional Police Lieutenant, Hudson County, Department of Corrections, suspension.

ACTION: The Civil Service Commission noted the withdrawal of appeal without prejudice.

DISMISSAL FOR FAILURE TO APPEAR

The Civil Service Commission dismissed the following cases without prejudice for failure to appear at the scheduled hearing before the Office of Administrative Law:

Stephan Pitts, Road Repairer 2, Camden County Department of Public Works, suspension.

ACTION: The Civil Service Commission noted the dismissal of appeals without prejudice.

SECTION A – HEARING MATTERS

A-1 SETTLEMENTS

Lawrence Azubuike
Department of Labor and Workforce Development
Release at the end of the working test period

Karen Coombs
Woodbine Developmental Center
Department of Human Services
Removal

Marcin Markowski
Bayside State Prison
Department of Corrections
Removal

Kaitlin O'Hara
Department of Banking and Insurance
Suspension

VOTE:

Allison Chris Myers	(Yes)
Dolores Gorczyca	(Recuse)
Daniel O'Mullan	(Yes)
Diomedes Tsitouras	(Yes)
Christina Mongon	(Yes)

Esmeralda Rodriguez
Ancora Psychiatric Hospital
Department of Health
Removal

Dominique Stewart
Ancora Psychiatric Hospital
Department of Health
Removal

Jenniffer Stidham
Woodbine Developmental Center
Department of Human Services
Removal

Vanessa Vazquez (Consolidated)
Hudson County
Department of Health and Human Services
Suspensions (2)

Christina White
Ancora Psychiatric Hospital
Department of Health
Removal

ACTION: The Civil Service Commission acknowledged the settlements.

A-2 GERARD CIANDELLA, *ET AL.* – CSC DOCKET NOS. 2020-2575, *ET AL.*

Gerard Ciandella, Deputy Registrar of Vital Statistics, Hoboken, Department of Human Services, layoff for reasons of economy or efficiency, effective May 7, 2020.

Recommendation of the Administrative Law Judge – Grant the motion for partial summary decision and reverse the layoff.

ACTION: The Civil Service Commission held this matter over.

A-3 ELLEN GANOPOLOUS – CSC DOCKET NO. 2018-1032

Ellen Ganopolous, Intermittent Bridge Operator, Ocean County, Department of Roads, removal effective September 20, 2017, on charges of incompetency, inefficiency or failure to perform duties, insubordination, neglect of duty and other sufficient cause.

Recommendation of the Administrative Law Judge – Modify the removal to a six-month suspension.

ACTION: The Civil Service Commission affirmed the recommendation of the Administrative Law Judge.

VOTE:

Allison Chris Myers	(No)
Dolores Gorczyca	(Yes)
Daniel O’Mullan	(Yes)
Diomedes Tsitouras	(Yes)
Christina Mongon	(Yes)

A-4 JASMINE GOVENS – CSC DOCKET NO. 2023-220

Jasmine Govens, Senior Correctional Police Officer, South Woods State Prison, Department of Corrections, removal, effective July 20, 2023, on charges of conduct unbecoming a public employee and other sufficient cause.

Recommendation of the Administrative Law Judge – Modify the removal to a 120 working day suspension.

ACTION: The Civil Service Commission remanded the matter to the Office of Administrative Law.

A-5 KAREN MCDUGALD – CSC DOCKET NO. 2022-2995

Karen McDougald, Human Services Specialist 2, Passaic County Board or Social Services, 20 working day suspension, on charges of violating the local government ethics law.

Recommendation of the Administrative Law Judge – Uphold the 20 working day suspension.

ACTION: The Civil Service Commission affirmed the recommendation of the Administrative Law Judge.

A-6 STEVEN MITCHELL – CSC DOCKET NO. 2020-2597

Steven Mitchell, Senior Correctional Police Officer, Mid-State Correctional Facility, Department of Corrections, removal, effective May 8, 2020, on charges of conduct unbecoming a public employee and other sufficient cause.

Recommendation of the Administrative Law Judge – Uphold the removal.

ACTION: The Civil Service Commission affirmed the recommendation of the Administrative Law Judge.

A-7 ANDREW MONK – CSC DOCKET NO. 2022-3178

Andrew Monk, Laborer 1, Trenton, Department of Public Works, removal, effective May 23, 2022, on charges of insubordination, conduct unbecoming a public employee, neglect of duty and other sufficient cause.

Recommendation of the Administrative Law Judge – Uphold the removal.

ACTION: The Civil Service Commission affirmed the recommendation of the Administrative Law Judge.

A-8 OMAR POLANCO – CSC DOCKET NO. 2023-1988

Omar Polanco, Police Officer, Jersey City, Police Department, removal, effective March 1, 2023, on charges or insubordination, inability to perform duties, conduct unbecoming a public employee, neglect of duty and other sufficient cause.

Recommendation of the Administrative Law Judge – Grant the appellant’s motion for summary decision and reverse the removal.

ACTION: The Civil Service Commission affirmed the recommendation of the Administrative Law Judge.

SECTION B – MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

B-1 R.C. – CSC DOCKET NO. 2023-148

R.C., represented by Robert K. Chewning, Esq., appeals her rejection as a Police Officer candidate by South Plainfield and its request to remove her name from the eligible list for Police Officer (S9999A) on the basis of psychological unfitness to perform effectively the duties of the position.

ACTION: The Civil Service Commission directed that this appeal be denied.

B-2 B.E. – CSC DOCKET NOS. 2023-105 AND 2023-1430

B.E., represented by Robert K. Chewning, Esq., appeals her rejection as a Police Officer candidate by Ridgewood and its request to remove her name from the eligible lists for Police Officer (S9999A and M0129D) on the basis of psychological unfitness to perform effectively the duties of the position.

ACTION: The Civil Service Commission directed that these appeals be denied.

B-3 P.G. – CSC DOCKET NO. 2023-1474

P.G., represented by Leonard C. Schiro, Esq., appeals her rejection as a Fire Fighter candidate by Hoboken and its request to remove her name from the eligible list for Fire Fighter (M1839W) on the basis of psychological unfitness to perform effectively the duties of the position.

ACTION: The Civil Service Commission directed that this appeal be denied.

B-4 G.M. – CSC DOCKET NO. 2022-1434

G.M., represented by Valerie Palma DeLuisi, Esq., appeals his rejection as a Juvenile Detention Officer candidate by Morris County on the basis of psychological unfitness to perform effectively the duties of the position.

ACTION: The Civil Service Commission directed that this appeal be denied.

B-5 DERRICK HANEY – CSC DOCKET NO. 2023-2122

Derrick Haney appeals the decision to remove his name from the eligible list for Police Officer (S9999A), Clifton on the basis that he failed to respond to the certification notice.

ACTION: The Civil Service Commission directed that this appeal be granted.

B-6 CHRISTIAN HERR – CSC DOCKET NO. 2023-1212

Christian Herr, represent by Craig S. Gumpel, Esq., appeals the decision of Newark to remove his name from the eligible list for Fire Fighter (M1856W), Newark based on falsification of his preemployment application.

ACTION: The Civil Service Commission directed that this appeal be granted in part.

B-7 LISA OMPONG – CSC DOCKET NO. 2023-1876

Lisa Ompong appeals the removal of her name from the eligible list for Family Service Specialist 1 (PS5386K), Department of Children and Families, on the basis that she failed to respond to the certification notice.

ACTION: The Civil Service Commission directed that this appeal be granted.

B-8 KERI BLASZAK AND MARGARITA JARKOWSKY– CSC DOCKET NOS. 2024-247 AND 2024-251

Keri Blaszak and Margarita Jarkowsky appeal the determinations of the Division of Agency Services, which found that they did not meet the experience requirement for the promotional examination for Manager 2, Motor Vehicle Commission (PS9698T).

ACTION: The Civil Service Commission directed that Blaszak’s appeal be granted and Jarkowsky’s appeal be denied.

B-9 HOLLY LEONARD – CSC DOCKET NO. 2024-12

Holly Leonard appeals the determination of the Division of Agency Services that she did not meet the education requirements for the open competitive examination for the Superintendent, Parks and Forestry 1 (S1267D), Statewide.

ACTION: The Civil Service Commission directed that this appeal be denied.

B-10 REGINA WILLIAMSON – CSC DOCKET NO. 2023-473

Regina Williamson appeals the decision of the Division of Agency Services which found that she did not meet the experience requirements for the open competitive examination for Assistant Personnel Director (M0679D), Paterson.

ACTION: The Civil Service Commission directed that this appeal be denied.

B-11 KOMAL ZAFAR – CSC DOCKET NO. 2023-2263

Komal Zafar appeals the determination of the Division of Agency Services that she did not meet the experience requirements for the promotional examination for Human Services Specialist 4 (PC5164D), Hudson County.

ACTION: The Civil Service Commission directed that this appeal be denied.

B-12 JOHN ARVANITIS – CSC DOCKET NO. 2023-1888

John Arvanitis appeals his score on the promotional examination for Fire Officer 3 (PM5162C), Jersey City.

ACTION: The Civil Service Commission directed that this appeal be denied.

B-13 RICHARD GORMAN – CSC DOCKET NO. 2023-1965

Richard Gorman appeals his score on the promotional examination for Fire Officer 3 (PM5162C), Jersey City.

ACTION: The Civil Service Commission directed that this appeal be denied.

B-14 OMAR HOWARD – CSC DOCKET NO. 2023-1706

Omar Howard appeals his score on the promotional examination for Deputy Chief Investigator, Department of Corrections (PS0364I).

ACTION: The Civil Service Commission held this matter over.

B-15 THOMAS JONES, JR. – CSC DOCKET NO. 2023-1977

Thomas Jones, Jr. appeals his score on the promotional examination for Fire Officer 3 (PM5162C), Jersey City.

ACTION: The Civil Service Commission directed that this appeal be denied.

B-16 JAMES NICKERSON – CSC DOCKET NO. 2023-1843

James Nickerson appeals his score on the promotional examination for Fire Officer 3 (PM5162C), Jersey City.

ACTION: The Civil Service Commission directed that this appeal be granted in part.

B-17 JOSEPH DI TOMMASO – CSC DOCKET NO. 2023-1921

Joseph Di Tommaso appeals his score on the promotional examination for Fire Officer 3 (PM5162C), Jersey City.

ACTION: The Civil Service Commission directed that this appeal be granted.

B-18 CONSTANCE ZAPPELLA – CSC DOCKET NO. 2023-1851

Constance Zappella appeals her score on the promotional examination for Fire Officer 3 (PM5162C), Jersey City.

ACTION: The Civil Service Commission directed that this appeal be granted in part.

B-19 NICHOLAS BALESTRIERI – CSC DOCKET NO. 2023-2915

Nicholas Balestrieri appeals the administration of the physical performance portion of the examination for Fire Fighter (M1892W), Hamilton.

ACTION: The Civil Service Commission directed that this appeal be denied.

B-20 CRYSTAL GARNER – CSC DOCKET NO. 2023-2353

Crystal Garner appeals the administration of the promotional examination for Assistant Supervisor of Professional Residential Services, Developmental Disabilities (PS7682K), Department of Human Services.

ACTION: The Civil Service Commission directed that this appeal be denied.

B-21 P.B. – CSC DOCKET NO. 2023-1487

P.B., a State Budget Specialist 4, Department of the Treasury, appeals the determination of the Director of Administration, which found that the appellant failed to present sufficient evidence to support a finding that she had been subjected to a violation of the New Jersey State Policy Prohibiting Discrimination in the Workplace.

ACTION: The Civil Service Commission directed that this appeal be denied.

B-22 S.L. – CSC DOCKET NO. 2023-2089

S.L., a Family Service Specialist 2 with the Department of Children and Families, represented by Justin Schwam, Esq., appeals the determination of a Deputy Commissioner, which found that he the violated the New Jersey State Policy Prohibiting Discrimination in the Workplace.

ACTION: The Civil Service Commission directed that this appeal be denied.

VOTE:

Allison Chris Myers	(Abstain)
Dolores Gorczyca	(Yes)
Daniel O’Mullan	(Yes)
Diomedes Tsitouras	(Yes)
Christina Mongon	(Yes)

B-23 S.B. – CSC DOCKET NO. 2022-2593

S.B., an Assistant Social Work Supervisor with the Department of Corrections, requests reconsideration of the final administrative decision rendered on March 23, 2022, which determined that he failed to support a finding that he had been subjected to a violation of the State Policy Prohibiting Discrimination in the Workplace.

ACTION: The Civil Service Commission directed that this request be denied.

B-24 POLICE LIEUTENANT (PM3381E), JERSEY CITY – CSC DOCKET NO. 2024-319, ET AL.

Jersey City, represented by Arthur R. Thibault, Esq., and Kyle J. Trent, Esq., petitions the Civil Service Commission (Commission) for a stay of the Commission’s decision in *In the Matter of Police Lieutenant (PM3381E), Jersey City* (CSC, decided August 2, 2023), pending the outcome of its appeal in the Superior Court, Appellate Division. Additionally, Joseph Chidichimo and David Leon, Police Sergeants with Jersey City, request reconsideration of the final decision in *In the Matter of Police Lieutenant (PM3381E), Jersey City, supra*.

ACTION: The Civil Service Commission directed that this petition and request be denied.

VOTE:

Allison Chris Myers	(Abstain)
Dolores Gorczyca	(Yes)
Daniel O’Mullan	(Yes)
Diomedes Tsitouras	(Yes)
Christina Mongon	(Yes)

B-25 STEPHAN PITTS – CSC DOCKET NO. 2023-2880

Stephan Pitts, a Road Repairer 2 with Camden County, represented by Garren Steiner, President, CWA Local 1014, petitions the Civil Service Commission for interim relief regarding his immediate suspension.

ACTION: The Civil Service Commission directed that this petition be denied.

B-26 BRIAN ROACH, ET AL. – CSC DOCKET NOS. 2023-507, ET AL.

Brian Roach, Dubanes Bello, and Ruben Morales, Fire Fighters with Jersey City, represented by Michael A. Bukosky, Esq., petition the Civil Service Commission for interim relief regarding their immediate suspensions.

ACTION: The Civil Service Commission directed that this petition be denied.

B-27 CHRISTINE CHIEFFE – CSC DOCKET NO. 2023-1938

Christine Chieffe, a Graduate Nurse with Hudson County, Department of Health and Human Services, Meadowview Psychiatric Hospital, represented by Analiese W. Smith, Esq., requests back pay in accordance with the Civil Service Commission decision rendered on March 23, 2022.

ACTION: The Civil Service Commission awarded back pay in the amount of \$12,136.09.

B-28 MARIA STARKEY (NUNN-LING) – CSC DOCKET NO. 2022-2533

Maria Starkey (Nunn-Ling), a Senior Technician MVC, with the Motor Vehicle Commission appeals her appointment date.

ACTION: The Civil Service Commission directed that this appeal be denied.

PUBLIC PORTION

No comments.

There being no further business before the Civil Service Commission, the meeting was adjourned to convene on Wednesday, October 11, 2023, at 10:00 a.m., at 3 Station Plaza, Trenton, New Jersey.



**Allison Chris Myers
Chairperson
Civil Service Commission**