## BEFORE THE CITY OF SEATTLE PUBLIC SAFETY CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

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**PSCSC No. 23-05-011RFR** 

Brent Mattila, Requestor

ORDER DENYING APPEAL REQUEST FOR REVIEW AND RECONSIDERATION OF AN ACTION OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## **Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law**

As described by letter dated April 21, 2023 to Requestor Brent Mattila ("Requestor") from Executive Director Andrea Scheele ("Executive Director") of the City of Seattle Public Safety Civil Service Commission ("PSCSC" or "Commission"), the PSCSC received from the Requestor on April 3, 2023 a request to be placed on the reinstatement register for the rank of Fire Lieutenant following separation, pursuant to Rule 10.03 of the PSCSC Rules of Practice and Procedure. The letter indicated that the Requestor was separated on December 8, 2022 due to noncompliance with the City's vaccine mandate and the department's inability to find a reasonable accommodation. The Executive Director's decision letter further informed the Requestor that the request for reinstatement to the eligible register was denied because the request did not meet the criteria set forth in Rule 10.03.

Via email dated May 3, 2023, the Requestor indicated that he would like to appeal the decision of the Executive Director "to deny my reinstatement to the lieutenant registry," and the appeal was processed for consideration by the Commission.

On July 20, 2023, the Commission conducted a hearing in this matter and considered the Requestor's appeal request for the Commission to review and reconsider the Executive Director's decision to deny the Requestor's request to be placed on the eligible register. The Requestor

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attended the hearing remotely and provided testimony to the Commission. The hearing was attended by Stacy Connole, Chairperson of the PSCSC, and Richard Greene, PSCSC Commissioner. PSCSC Commissioner Joel Nark was unable to attend the hearing.<sup>1</sup>

After due consideration, including review and consideration of the materials submitted to the Commission in this matter and the oral presentation and argument presented at the July 20, 2023 hearing, the Commission hereby sets forth its conclusions of law and order in this matter.

Rule 10.03 of the City of Seattle Public Safety Civil Service Commission Rules of Practice and Procedure states, in relevant part:

a. A former employee who resigned, retired, or was separated for medical or disability reasons but not granted disability retirement may request return of their name to a supplemental register to be considered with the open graded eligible register for the classification or rank. Such request must be made within one year from date of resignation, retirement, or separation due to disability; provided, the Executive Director may extend the above time limitation for not to exceed an additional four years upon satisfactory showing that such extension would be to the best interests of the City:

The Commission's finding and conclusion is that the decision of the Executive Director to deny the Requestor's request to be placed on the eligible register pursuant to Rule 10.03 was properly decided and the Requestor has not established an error of fact or law. The Commission finds and concludes that Rule 10.03.a. states, in relevant part:

> A former employee who resigned, retired, or was separated for medical or disability reasons but not granted disability retirement may request return of their name to a supplemental register to be considered with the open graded eligible register for the classification or rank. ...

Here, the Requestor did not resign, retire, or separate for medical or disability reasons. Therefore, the Commission finds and concludes that the Executive Director properly concluded that the Requestor does not meet the criteria set forth in Rule 10.03, and specifically Rule 10.03.a., as stated. The Commission further finds and concludes that the Executive Director's

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> In that Commissioner Nark was unable to attend the July 20, 2023 hearing and participate in the Commission's consideration and decision in this matter, he is not a signatory to this Order.

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denial of the Requestor's request to be placed on the eligible register conforms with the requirements of the PSCSC Rules.

## **ORDER**

Pursuant to the foregoing, the Commission hereby AFFIRMS the Executive Director's decision pursuant to Rule 10.03 to deny the Requestor's request to be placed on the eligible register, and DENIES the Requestor's appeal request for the Commission to revise, modify, or overturn the Executive Director's denial decision.

Dated this 27th day of July, 2023.

FOR THE CITY OF SEATTLE PUBLIC SAFETY CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

Stacy Connole

Stacy Connole

Chairperson of the City of Seattle Public Safety Civil Service Commission

Richard Greene

Richard Greene

City of Seattle Public Safety Civil Service Commissioner

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## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, Teresa R. Jacobs, declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington, that on the date below, I caused to be served upon the below-listed parties, via the method of service listed below, a true and correct copy of the foregoing document: Order Denying Appeal Request for Review and Reconsideration of an Action of the Executive Director.

Party and Other Interested Parties	Method of Service
Requestor: Brent Mattila	⊠E-Mail
For the City:	⊠E-Mail
Dori Towler (Seattle Fire Department, Human Resources) <u>Dori.Towler@seattle.gov</u>	
Hannah Kosten (Seattle Fire Department, Human Resources)  Hannah.Kosten@seattle.gov	
Yoshiko Grace Matsui (Seattle Department of Human Resources, Fire & Police Exams Unit)  Yoshiko.GraceMatsui@seattle.gov	

Dated this 27<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2023, at Seattle, Washington.

Teresa R. Jacobs

Teresa R. Jacobs, Executive Assistant Civil Service Commissions