

COOK COUNTY COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

69 West Washington Street, Suite 3040
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Amanda WASHINGTON, Complainant)	
)	Case No. 2013E002
v.)	
)	Entered: July 16, 2014
COOK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE,)	
Respondent)	

ORDER

On January 28, 2013, Complainant Amanda Washington ("Washington") filed a complaint against her employer, Respondent Cook County Sheriff's Office ("Cook County"), alleging that she was harassed, subjected to unequal treatment, and retaliated against because of her race, in violation of the Cook County Human Rights Ordinance ("Human Rights Ordinance"). The Cook County Commission on Human Rights ("Commission") has not yet made an evidence determination with respect to this matter, but on June 10, 2014, Washington represented to Commission staff that she wished to withdraw her Complaint. Commission staff mailed Washington a Withdrawal Request Form for her execution that same day.

The Commission's Procedural Rules state that "[a] Complainant may request to withdraw a Complaint or any part thereof at any time." CCHR Pro. R. 420.160. If the request is knowingly and voluntarily made, the Commission approves the request and enters an order dismissing the Complaint. *Id.* The Commission's Procedural Rules typically require that a Complainant's request to withdraw be in writing and signed by the Complainant or his or her attorney of record, *see id.*, however, the Commission has waived the requirement of a written withdrawal in cases where a Complainant confirms his or her oral representation of a desire to withdraw with a voluntary action. *See, e.g., Austin v. Sears, Roebuck & Co.*, 2010PA001 (CCHRC Feb. 5, 2014); *Carter v. Cook County Sheriff's Office*, 2011E020 (CCHRC Oct. 21, 2013); *Mallette v. Cook County Health & Hospitals System*, 2012E012 (CCHRC Jan. 6, 2014).

Here, Commission staff advised Washington that if she did not return the written Withdrawal Request Form by Friday June 20, 2014, her pending complaint would be dismissed based on her oral statement. The tracking feature of the U.S. Postal Service shows that Washington signed for the Commission's certified letter on July 7, 2014. Yet, Washington has not contacted the Commission to withdraw her oral request. As such, the Commission presumes from the combination of her oral statement and her actions since that Washington has made a knowing and voluntary request to withdraw her Complaint which should be granted pursuant to the Commission's Procedural Rules. *See Carter*, 2011E020 at *1.

For the foregoing reasons, the Commission hereby grants Washington's request to withdraw her Complaint and orders that Complaint 2013E002 be DISMISSED pursuant to a VOLUNTARY WITHDRAWAL.

July 16, 2014

By delegation:



Ranjit Hakim
Executive Director of the Cook County
Commission on Human Rights