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FREEDOM OF INFORMATION



Connecticut Freedom of Information Commission • 18-20 Trinity Street, Suite 100 • Hartford, CT 06106
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Louise Czar,
Complainant(s)
against

Notice of Meeting

Docket #FIC 2016-0695

Edward Brown, Chief, Bantam Fire Company; and
Bantam Fire Company,
Respondent(s)

January 10, 2017

Transmittal of Proposed Final Decision

In accordance with Section 4-179 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Freedom of Information Commission hereby transmits to you the proposed finding and decision prepared by the hearing officer in the above-captioned matter.

This will notify you that the Commission will consider this matter for disposition at its meeting which will be held in the Freedom of Information Commission Hearing Room, 18-20 Trinity Street, 1st floor, Hartford, Connecticut, at **2 p.m. on Wednesday, February 8, 2017**. At that time and place you will be allowed to offer oral argument concerning this proposed finding and order. Oral argument shall be limited to ten (10) minutes. For good cause shown, however, the Commission may increase the period of time for argument. A request for additional time must be made in writing and should be filed with the Commission **ON OR BEFORE January 27, 2017**. Such request **MUST BE (1) copied to all parties, or if the parties are represented, to such representatives, and (2) include a notation indicating such notice to all parties or their representatives.**

Although a brief or memorandum of law is not required, if you decide to submit such a document, an **original and fourteen (14) copies** must be filed **ON OR BEFORE January 27, 2017**. **PLEASE NOTE: Any correspondence, brief or memorandum directed to the Commissioners by any party or representative of any party MUST BE (1) copied to all parties, or if the parties are represented, to such representatives, (2) include a notation indicating such notice to all parties or their representatives and (3) be limited to argument. NO NEW EVIDENCE MAY BE SUBMITTED.**

If you have already filed a brief or memorandum with the hearing officer and wish to have that document distributed to each member of the Commission, it is requested that **fifteen (15) copies** be filed **ON OR BEFORE January 27, 2017**, and that **notice be given to all parties or if the parties are represented, to their representatives, that such previously filed document is being submitted to the Commissioners for review.**

By Order of the Freedom of
Information Commission

W. Paradis

Acting Clerk of the Commission

Notice to: Louise Czar
Edward Brown, Chief, Bantam Fire Company and
Bantam Fire Company

FIC# 2016-0695/Trans/wrbp/VDH//LFS/2017-01-10

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

In the Matter of a Complaint by

Report of Hearing Officer

Louise Czar,

Complainant

against

Docket #FIC 2016-0695

Edward Brown, Chief, Bantam Fire
Company; and Bantam Fire Company,

Respondents

January 9, 2017


The above-captioned matter was scheduled to be heard as a contested case on January 3, 2017 at 11:00 A.M., at which time the respondents appeared, but the complainant did not appear to prosecute the case.

The hearing officer notes that Edward Brown, President of the Bantam Fire Company, appeared at the hearing with Jane Sparks, Treasurer of the Bantam Fire Company. Mr. Brown and Ms. Sparks represented that they are both volunteers for the Bantam Fire Company, and both work private sector jobs in addition to their volunteer work. Mr. Brown is self-employed and appearing at the hearing meant that he had to miss 2/3 of a day's work and forgo the associated salary. Ms. Sparks is employed in the healthcare industry. Her appearance at the hearing meant that she had to miss a five-hour shift and forgo the associated salary. In addition, it took Mr. Brown and Ms. Sparks fifty minutes to travel from Bantam to arrive at the hearing on time, only to have a five minute hearing and travel back to Bantam.

It is difficult to understand why, with all of the available means of technology, the complainant failed to notify the Commission that the hearing was not necessary. This is the second time that this complainant has not appeared for a hearing with these respondents before this hearing officer.

The following order by the Commission is hereby recommended on the basis of the record concerning the above-captioned complaint:

1. The complaint is hereby dismissed.
2. The complainant is admonished for her failure to appear at the hearing in this matter, which failure resulted in a waste of scarce state and local resources.


Valicia Dee Harmon
as Hearing Officer