



# CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

DEPARTMENT OF CITY CIVIL SERVICE  
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CITY CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION  
BRITTNEY RICHARDSON, CHAIRPERSON  
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ANDREW MONTEVERDE

AMY TREPAGNIER  
DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL

Monday, October 20, 2025

Brett J. Prendergast  
4603 S. Carrollton Avenue  
New Orleans, La. 70119

Re: **Lora Johnson VS.**  
**City Council**  
**Docket Number: 9607**

Dear Mr. Prendergast:

Attached is the action of the Civil Service Commission at the Commission's meeting on Friday, 9/12/2025.

Yours very truly,

  
Doddie K. Smith  
Chief, Management Services Division

cc: Justyn Hawkins  
William R. H. Goforth  
Lora Johnson

file

**CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION  
CITY OF NEW ORLEANS**

**LORA JOHNSON,  
Appellant**

**Docket No. 9607**

v.

**CITY COUNCIL,  
Appointing Authority**

**ORDER**

Ms. Johnson filed a Motion to Enforce and for Attorney's Fees on August 15, 2025. The Commission heard oral argument on this motion at its regular meeting on September 12, 2025. The City Council reinstated Ms. Johnson on September 15, 2025, so this portion of Ms. Johnson's motion is now moot. The Commission grants Ms. Johnson's motion to enforce as to back pay and emoluments of employment. The Commission also grants Ms. Johnson's motion for attorney's fees because of the City Council's delay in reinstating Ms. Johnson.

The Commission denied the City Council's Motion for Rehearing on July 3, 2025, so the Commission's April 14, 2025, decision granting Ms. Johnson's appeal was final on that date under Civil Service Rule II, Section 4.19. Civil Service Rule II, Section 11.1 provides that

In all appeals to the Commission under these Rules where a final judgment has been rendered by either the Commission, the Court of Appeal, Fourth Circuit, or the Louisiana State Supreme Court, immediate steps shall be taken by the City to fully comply with the judgment. This restoration shall include, where appropriate, reimbursement for all back wages and emoluments due and accrued annual and/or sick leave, less an offset for any wages earned during the period for which back pay was restored.

The City Council did not reinstate Ms. Johnson until September 15, 2025, and has not reimbursed the back pay. Civil Service Rule II, Section 11.4 provides that the Commission may assess attorney's fees if the reinstatement is not accomplished within 45 days. Forty-five days expired on

Sunday, August 17, 2025, so the City Council should have reinstated Ms. Johnson on Monday, August 18, 2025.

The City Council argued that it attempted to file a motion to stay the Commission's judgment with the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal on August 18, 2025, but no motion was filed until September 10, 2025. This motion was denied by the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal on September 11, 2025.

Ms. Johnson incurred attorney's fees to enforce the Commission's judgment as a result of the failure of the City Council to take immediate steps to reinstate her under Civil Service Rule II, Section 11.1.

Ms. Johnson's counsel shall submit an attorney fee affidavit within 10 days of this Order. The City Council shall make any objections to the reasonableness of the fees within five days of the submission of the fee affidavit.



Brittney Richardson, Chairperson (Oct 9, 2025 12:33:49 CDT)

BRITTNEY RICHARDSON, CHAIRPERSON



John Korn, Vice-Chairperson (Oct 8, 2025 10:53:24 CDT)

JOHN KORN, VICE-CHAIRPERSON



Andrew Monteverde, Commissioner (Oct 10, 2025 10:50:05 CDT)

ANDREW MONTEVERDE, COMMISSIONER