BEFORE THE BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION

CALIFORNIA PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

HUMBERTO FLORES, ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE

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In the Matter of the Calculation)
of Final Compensation of:)

CASE NO. 2014-0681

CHRISTINE F. LONDO,

Respondent,

) OAH NO. 2014070904

and

CITY OF WALNUT,

Respondent.

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
Los Angeles, California
Friday, July 31, 2015

Reported by:

CLAUDETTE A. HENRY Hearing Reporter

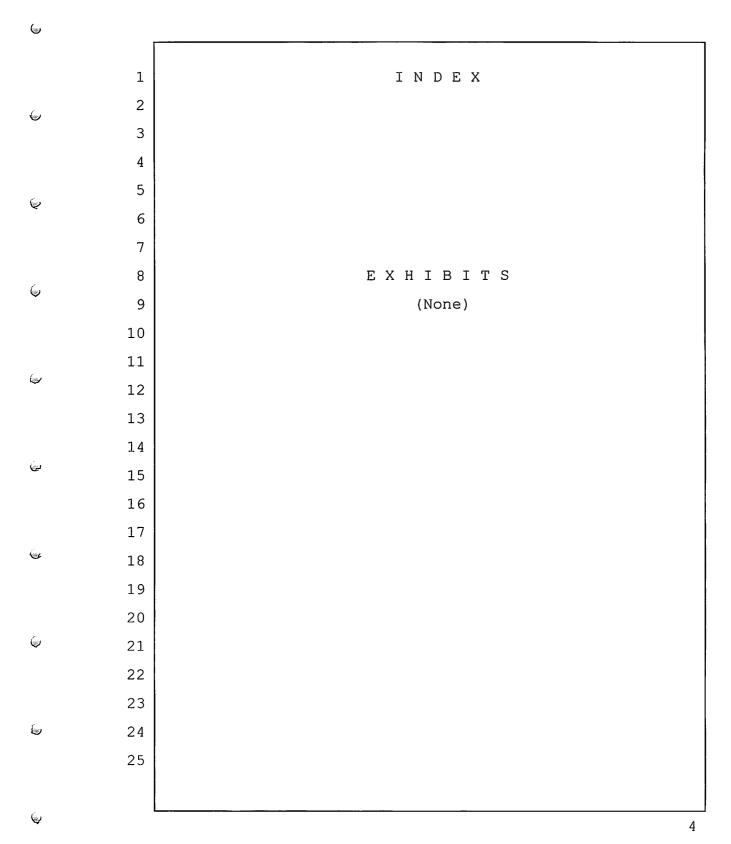
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	16	TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEED:	INGS, taken at
>	17	320 West Fourth Street, Suit	te 630, Los Angeles,
	18	California, commencing at 10	0:00 a.m.
	19	on Friday, July 31, 2015, he	eard before
lood.	20	HUMBERTO FLORES, Administrat	tive Law Judge,
•	21	reported by CLAUDETTE A. HEN	NRY, Hearing Reporter.
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Los Angeles, California, Friday, July 31, 2015 1 2 10:00 a.m. 3 4 THE COURT: State your appearances for the record 5 6 beginning with Mr. Coffey. 7 MR. COFFEY: Good morning. Rory, R-O-R-Y; Coffey, C-O-F-F-E-Y, appearing for California Public Employees' 8 Retirement System, CalPERS. 9 10 THE COURT: And Mr. Silver. Stephen, S-T-E-P-H-E-N; Silver, 11 MR. SILVER: 12 S-I-L-V-E-R, appearing on behalf of the Respondent 13 Christine Londo. THE COURT: Mr. Montgomery. 14 MR. MONTGOMERY: Michael Montgomery, city attorney 15 16 City of Walnut. 17 THE COURT: This Matter of Christine F. Londo, 18 Respondent and City of Walnut, Respondent was remanded 19 to the administrative law judge for the taking of 20 additional evidence regarding the issue of whether the 21 fact of this case differ from the facts of the Board's 22 precedential decision in the Matter of Roy Ramirez case 23 number 00-06. 24 And also it seems that there -- for argument 25 on whether or not under the facts of this case

Respondent's position of interim city manager qualify 1 2 the special compensation under Government Code Section 3 20636. 4 So -- my name is Humberto Flores 5 administrative law judge who handled the initial hearing and is handling the remand. All right. 6 7 Mr. Coffey, is there any kind of an opening 8 statement that you wish to make? 9 MR. SILVER: Excuse me. This is Mr. Silver. I just Both Mr. Coffey 10 wanted to say one thing for the record. 11 and I represented to the presiding judge when we scheduled this conference that neither one of us had any 12 -- even Mr. Montgomery agreed that none of us had any 13 14 evidence to present. 15 And that all we are engaging in is oral 16 I just want to get that on the record. 17 If that is the case then, who is going THE COURT: 18 to begin the process here. Mr. Coffey, are you going to 19 begin with your oral argument? 20 MR. COFFEY: I certainly can, your Honor. 21 THE COURT: All right. MR. COFFEY: And I think I can be very brief. 22 Ramirez precedential decision cited in the CalPERS 23 24 post-hearing brief is to be given weight and actually 25 presumptive value or presumptive correctness.

I will provide your Honor and Mr. Montgomery and Mr. Silver with a copy of the City of Pleasanton versus Board of Administration decision which includes that language and also addresses estoppel issues.

But looking at Mr. Silver's argument regarding the Ramirez precedential. First, there has been no legal challenge, post the Board adopting it as a precedential decision. Clearly, in your Honor's initial proposed decision at page 3 it was made clear that the position that Ms. Londo took as an interim city manager slash finance director was temporary.

It was not a permanent position. Also at page 5 of your Honor's initial proposed decision, you found that there was no labor agreement. This was when she agreed to assume the additional duties of interim city manager. There was no publicly available schedule. It was not available to others.

And, again, for all those reasons the holding of the Ramirez precedential decision pertains and controls this matter. With respect to temporary upgrade pay as a basis for finding the additional \$5,000 a month as an allowable item of special compensation is Section 5 -- of the regulation, Section 57183 the language includes required by their employer and upgraded position slash classification of limited duration.

And what happened in Mr. Londo's case does not satisfy that language. And I can give an example. If we have a local public agency like the city and imagine, if will you, two positions one a manager of parks and recreation.

That position is identified on a publicly available pay schedule. Whoever holds that manager parks and recreation position they are paid \$5,000 a month. In the city's publicly available schedule there is another position director of community service.

And that position compensation or pay rate is \$8,000 a month. Well, we have a situation where the existing director of community services leaves for whatever reason.

In order for temporary upgrade pay to be accepted as an item of special compensation, what would have to happen is the city would have to go to that person who is currently the manager of parks and recreation and say, look, we are moving you up to the existing position of director of community services.

And you are going to receive \$8,000 a month.

And you will receive this for a, quote, "limited duration" meaning for as long as it takes us to hire a new permanent director of community services. And so that person leaves their manager of parks and recreation

position, steps into the director of community services 1 2 position understanding that it is a limited duration. 3 Meaning they are not the person selected to be 4 that director of community services on a permanent 5 basis. Let's say they perform in that position for six 6 months or 12 months, whatever it takes the city to do 7 their interviewing and hiring purposes. In that circumstance the upgrade pay of the 8 9 \$8,000 a month that the person receives would be an item 10 of special compensation if they were not hired as 11 director of community services if they went back to 12 their manager of parks and recreation position. 13 wasn't what happened in Ms. Londo's situation. 14 Again, significant in all of this is whether the position is or would have been available to all 15 16 people and identified in the publicly available labor 17 agreement. THE COURT: Are you still there? 18 19 MR. COFFEY: Yes, I am. 20 THE COURT: Is there anything else? 21 MR. SILVER: May I respond now? 22 Okay. Are you complete? THE COURT: Did you 23 complete your argument, Mr. Coffey? 24 MR. COFFEY: I believe so at this time, your Honor. 25 Of course, I want to respond to anything that

1 Mr. Montgomery or Mr. Silver argues. 2 THE COURT: All right. Mr. Silver. 3 MR. SILVER: Yes. Thank you. This is Stephen 4 First of all, what Mr. Coffey just finished 5 doing is beyond the scope of the remand. The remand 6 does not involve -- did not contemplate rearguing the 7 determination your Honor has already made. 8 It contemplated preparing our situation, 9 reviewing the situation to distinguish it. 10 Nevertheless, I think that a quick response to Mr. 11 Coffey's example. I think that is exactly the same what 12 happened in the case of Mr. Londo. And I think your 13 Honor correctly found that this was temporary upgrade 14 pay. 15 The real question is presented in the remand is 16 does the Ramirez situation have any impact on your 17 Honor's earlier determination and to me the answer is 18 clearly no. First of all, and much by far most 19 importantly a temporary review of the Ramirez decision 20 clearly reflects that the subject of temporary upgrade 21 pay was not at all addressed or even mentioned in that 22 decision. 23 I personally believe that had Mr. Ramirez 24 presented that as an argument on his behalf there would 25 have been a different result. The fact of the matter is

Ramirez does not have in any way for a proposition on that pay received under the circumstances involve both in the Ramirez case and Ms. Londo's case would not qualify as temporary upgrade pay.

Secondly, I read the Ramirez conclusion of the law or whatever you want to call, the determination of the law several times. And it is clear to me that the sole basis or at least the primary for the determination of Ramirez was the finding by the administrative law judge that Mr. Ramirez's duties performed as city manager while he was still serving as the chief of police were in addition to or accepted as his normal duties as the chief of police.

And effectively constituted overtime which the administrative law judge determined did not qualify as compensation earnable or special compensation under the provisions of the public employees' retirement law.

Replete throughout the critical conclusion in Ramirez is the fact he worked an extra 20 hours a week over and above his duties as chief of police in order to serve as city manager.

As your Honor's proposed decision clearly relates that was not the case with Ms. Londo. Ms. Londo's duties did not increase. Her primary duties when she accepted the position as city manager were to

perform the duties of the city manager. And that the duties that she had previously performed as finance director was substantially performed by the subordinate not Ms. Londo.

She was really acting in a different capacity during the one-year period in question, and namely as city manager, and therefore was serving in an upgraded position. Some other factors to differentiate our situation from Ramirez is the administrative law judge in Ramirez relied on the fact that there was evidence in that case that the pay in question because it occurred during the last year of employment of Mr. Ramirez was basically final settlement pay.

And most importantly as a result of that, there was a significant amount of underfunding of the benefits that resulted from that. And your Honor found there is no evidence on the record that there is any underfunding in this case primarily because Ms. Londo's service as interim city manager occurred seven years before she retired.

And there was ample time for CalPERS to make a funding adjustment with the City of Walnut. In that regard it can't be regarded as final settlement pay. Because at the time Ms. Londo served in that position, she wasn't even thinking about retirement. This

occurred seven years before she started thinking about retirement.

A couple of other differences according to the findings in the Ramirez case. Mr. Ramirez continued to receive this special pay as chief of police special bonuses, etcetera, while he was working and performing extra duties as city manager. Nothing like that is present in this particular situation.

There is -- and other difference unlike the Ramirez situation here there is authorization for Ms. Londo to serve both as city manager and finance director. As the proposed decision notice that sets forth in the Walnut Municipal Code.

The other distinction for what it is worth in Ramirez. He received a salary that actually was more than what the city manager, previous city manager have been earning. During Ms. Londo's salary when serving as interim city manager is consistent with what had been earned by the previous city manager.

So I think that -- again, and I guess the final difference that I have. According to the Ramirez decision, he only performed some of the duties of the city manager position. Here in Ms. Londo's instance, she performed all of the duties of the city manager while she was serving as interim city manager.

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So the -- I guess I shouldn't get on my high horse with what CalPERS is doing because this should have been remanded. And I don't understand why there is no new evidence that was presented. There is absolutely no reason at all to depart from your proposed decision as far as I can tell. And unless your Honor has any questions, then I will submit on that. THE COURT: No. I may have questions after Mr. Coffey responds. MR. COFFEY: I don't think I have anything to add, your Honor. THE COURT: Okay. Then I do have a question. that is under Government Code Section 20049. "Labor policy or agreement means any written policy agreement, memorandum of understanding, legislative action of the elected or appointed body governing the employer or any other documents used by the employer to specify the pay rate, special compensation, and benefits of represented and unrepresented employees." So tell me why Mr. Londo's case -- how would you apply this section to Ms. Londo's case? MR. COFFEY: Are you wanting my response? Rory Coffey. THE COURT: Yes, Mr. Coffey.

MR. COFFEY: I have my PERL open to that section, your Honor. 20049. And again, the fact that the position of interim city manager slash finance director wasn't available to any other employee. That is how we would say 20049 does not apply.

There is no posting, if you will. There wasn't any recruiting. There wasn't any action by their city counsel. We are going to create this interim position. The fact as I believe was presented developed in the hearing, the then existing city manager left.

Ms. Londo was a long term seemingly valued employee in a position of finance director. And the city attorney, I believe, approached her and said would you -- in essence, would you be willing to assume additional duties of city manager while still keeping your position and all of your duties as finance manager.

And Mr. Londo agreed to that proposal and asked for additional compensation. And the confirmation of that agreement which has been negotiated between very simply, two very limited parties. That doesn't elevate it in our mind to a, quote, "labor policy or an agreement document used by the employer specified pay rate, special compensation, and benefit of represented and unrepresented employees."

It was simply a confirmation of a discussion

and negotiated terms of the agreement. And okay. For a one-year period, we are going to pay you an extra five grand a month. Thank you for your service.

THE COURT: All right.

MR. MONTGOMERY: This is Mr. Montgomery, I want to say something. I'm not looking at the record right now. But I was a participant in the transaction. And it was going to be temporary, I preferred to use the term indefinite position.

It was she that said I might not want to do this for more than a year. Not me. I did not look for another city manager to put in the position. The other distinction, first, the assistant city manager quite functioned as a city manager as the city manager was on vacation, rather in the office.

So without going through the selection process she was the logical one to step into that office. And the problem there that date as far her finance duties demoted Ms. Sanders to the finance office who is now doing what Ms. Londo had done. So I think it is unfair.

Because, yeah, I did make it public. We adopted it. Submitted it to the city counsel. Those are on the website. She got a different pay.

Everyone could have looked that up in the city of Walnut. Any city manager approved pay that would have

been political review. She did function as city manager.

This is like -- not like it is with Ramirez or another case that I know that you have. Where the fire chief became acting city administrator but kept his office over at the fire station. She moved in the city manager's office in other words her office.

And she was the city manager for as long she wanted to be there. And when she said I don't want to do it anymore, we recruited a city manager which was easy to do. We had an interim who became the rank of city manager. We brought him over. So she was the one that specify the term not me. She could have been there as long she wanted.

MR. SILVER: This is Stephen Silver. In response to your Honor's question, first of all, Government Code Section 20049 which I am looking at right now as you found in your proposed decision would clearly satisfy.

It is a very broadly written provision. It talks about any written policy, agreement, memorandum of understanding, legislative action, elected or appointed government body, the employer or any other document used by the employer to specify the pay rate. Clearly, the communications that you referenced in your proposed decision more than satisfy that particular section.

As far as what Mr. Coffey said about trying to distinguish this, again, he is rearguing the case. He was not responding to the question about 20049. But very simply the evidence that was presented at the hearing I remember specifically asking a question of the CalPERS witness, I can't remember her name, about a police officer who was asked to temporarily serve in the position of a police sergeant until such time as that position could be filled by a permanent police sergeant.

And the CalPERS witness testified that that would qualify as temporary upgrade pay. And I recall she also testified there was no difference between that situation and Ms. Londo's situation. So I think clearly the conclusion that the temporary upgrade pay is correct. I don't see any problem with 20049.

It is such a broadly written provision. The communication between Mr. Montgomery and Mr. Londo and -- and the other documentation clearly satisfy that.

THE COURT: All right. All right. Thank you all very much. If there is --

MR. COFFEY: Your Honor, just responding very briefly to Mr. Silver's argument or comment on his recollection of the CalPERS witness' testimony regarding the police officer temporary -- temporary manner acting as a police sergeant.

In that instance the employing agency would again presumably have a pay schedule that would say police officer X per month, police sergeant Y per month and includes the available but not just the one police officer as he temporarily steps in to perform duties of police sergeant.

It would be available to everybody. That's not the situation with Mr. Londo.

MR. SILVER: Excuse me. This is Mr. Silver. I don't know what you mean by available to everybody. If there was more than one vacant position, it will probably be available to two people. But there was only one position in my question. And there is only one vacant position here. And the result is exactly the same.

THE COURT: All right. Thank you all very much. I believe that this concludes the hearing on remand. And, Mr. Coffey, you did mention some other decision City of Pleasanton.

MR. COFFEY: No, it has not, your Honor. I offered to provide a copy of that decision. Because the challenge by Mr. Silver to Ramirez decision included an argument that the CalPERS precedential decision should be given little weight.

1 And the City of Pleasanton decision has very 2 specific language stating that agency decision including 3 precedential decision are to be given presumptive 4 validity. 5 THE COURT: Go ahead and finish, Mr. Coffey. 6 then, Mr. Silver, you may respond. 7 MR. COFFEY: I was offering to make a copy of that 8 decision available to your Honor and counsel for that 9 purpose. And if it is not necessary, I won't. 10 THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Silver. 11 I was just going to say that the MR. SILVER: 12 Ramirez decision was incorrectly decided. 13 of my argument today. 14 THE COURT: All right. Then do you have any 15 objection if Mr. Coffey providing that Pleasanton 16 decision to you, Mr. Montgomery, and myself. 17 MR. SILVER: Not at all. I am familiar with the case. It is a reported court of appeals decision. I 18 19 have no problem if your Honor reads it. 20 THE COURT: Why don't you give me the cite, Mr. 21 Coffey? 22 MR. COFFEY: I don't have that right in front me at 23 this time, your Honor. I can supplement that. 24 THE COURT: All right. That's fine. You can e-mail 25 it to the office -- e-mail a copy of the decision to the

Office of Administrative Hearings or just give me the cite. I will do that, your Honor. MR. COFFEY: THE COURT: All right. Thank you all very much. As soon as I receive the cite to that decision or the decision itself, I will close the record, and consider this matter submitted for decision after remand. Thank you all very much. We are off the record. (Hearing adjourned at 10:50 a.m.)

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

I, Claudette Henry, Hearing Reporter, do hereby
certify:

That the foregoing transcript of proceedings was taken before me on July 31, 2015, at the time and place therein set forth, was taken down by me in shorthand, and thereafter transcribed into typewriting under my direction and supervision.

I hereby certify that the foregoing transcript of proceedings is a full, true, and correct transcript of my shorthand notes so taken.

I further certify that I am neither counsel for nor related to any party to said action, nor in anywise interested in the outcome thereof.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name this 9^{th} day of November, 2015.

Claudette Henry, Hearing Reporter

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