



Board of Administration

California Public Employees' Retirement System

Agenda Item 8b

December 16, 2015

ITEM NAME: Proposed Decision – In the Matter of the Application for Reinstatement from Disability Retirement of JOSEPHINE OKWU, Respondent, and CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, Respondent.

PROGRAM: Benefit Services Division

ITEM TYPE: Action

PARTIES' POSITIONS

Staff argues that the Board of Administration should adopt the Proposed Decision.

Respondent Josephine Okwu (Respondent Okwu) argues that the Board of Administration should decline to adopt the Proposed Decision.

STRATEGIC PLAN

This item is not a specific product of either the Strategic or Annual Plans. The determination of administrative appeals is a power reserved to the Board of Administration.

PROCEDURAL SUMMARY

Respondent Okwu was approved for disability retirement on the basis of a psychological condition. Respondent Okwu submitted a request to be removed from disability retirement and reinstated to her former position with Respondent Department of Transportation. Respondent was reevaluated and after reviewing medical reports, CalPERS denied Respondent's request for reinstatement. Respondent Okwu appealed CalPERS' staff decision and hearings were held on August 31, 2015, and September 1st, and 2nd 2015. On October 1, 2015, the Administrative Law Judge issued a Proposed Decision denying Respondent Okwu's application for reinstatement from Disability Retirement.

ALTERNATIVES

- A. For use if the Board decides to adopt the Proposed Decision as its own Decision:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Administration of the California Public Employees' Retirement System hereby adopts as its own Decision the Proposed Decision dated October 1, 2015, concerning the appeal of

Josephine Okwu; RESOLVED FURTHER that this Board Decision shall be effective 30 days following mailing of the Decision.

- B. For use if the Board decides not to adopt the Proposed Decision, and to decide the case upon the record:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Administration of the California Public Employees' Retirement System, after consideration of the Proposed Decision dated October 1, 2015, concerning the appeal of Josephine Okwu, hereby rejects the Proposed Decision and determines to decide the matter itself, based upon the record produced before the Administrative Law Judge and such additional evidence and arguments that are presented by the parties and accepted by the Board; RESOLVED FURTHER that the Board's Decision shall be made after notice is given to all parties.

- C. For use if the Board decides to remand the matter back to the Office of Administrative Hearings for the taking of further evidence:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Administration of the California Public Employees' Retirement System, after consideration of the Proposed Decision dated October 1, 2015, concerning the appeal of Josephine Okwu, hereby rejects the Proposed Decision and refers the matter back to the Administrative Law Judge for the taking of additional evidence as specified by the Board at its meeting.

- D. Precedential Nature of Decision (two alternatives; either may be used):

1. For use if the Board wants further argument on the issue of whether to designate its Decision as precedential:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Administration of the California Public Employees' Retirement System requests the parties in the matter concerning the appeal of Josephine Okwu, as well as interested parties, to submit written argument regarding whether the Board's Decision in this matter should be designated as precedential, and that the Board will consider the issue whether to designate its Decision as precedential at a time to be determined.

2. For use if the Board decides to designate its Decision as precedential, without further argument from the parties.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Administration of the California Public Employees' Retirement System, hereby designates as precedential its Decision concerning the appeal of Josephine Okwu.

BUDGET AND FISCAL IMPACTS: Not applicable

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Proposed Decision
Attachment B: Staff's Argument
Attachment C: Respondent(s) Argument(s)

DONNA RAMEL LUM
Deputy Executive Officer
Customer Services and Support