

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**

**CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION**

100 Cambridge Street, Suite 200  
Boston, MA 02114  
(617) 979-1900

**STEPHEN A. COBB,**  
*Appellant*

v.

**DEPARTMENT OF  
CORRECTION,**  
*Respondent*

G2-24-185

**DECISION ON APPELLANT’S MOTION FOR RECONSIDERATION &  
RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION**

On May 1, 2025, the Civil Service Commission (Commission) [issued a decision](#) dismissing the promotional bypass appeal of the Appellant, a Correction Officer I (CO I) at the Department of Correction (DOC), based on the undisputed fact that he had been disciplined for off-duty misconduct within one year of the contemplated promotion to Correction Officer II (CO II).

On May 5, 2025, the Appellant filed a motion for reconsideration of that decision as well as a request for the Commission to initiate an investigation regarding the promotional appointments of two other CO Is that occurred in 2021 and 2024 respectively.<sup>1</sup>

The Motion for Reconsideration failed to identify a clerical or mechanical error in the decision or a significant factor the Commission or the presiding officer may have overlooked in deciding the promotional bypass appeal under Section 2(b) of Chapter 31.

In his motion for reconsideration, the Appellant effectively raises the same argument that he did in his motion for summary decision, citing to two similarly situated individuals who were promoted to CO II notwithstanding DOC’s policy related to promotions and recent discipline. I considered and addressed that issue as part of the May 1, 2025 decision.

Regarding the Appellant’s request for an investigation pursuant to Section 2(a) of Chapter 31, the Commission exercises its discretion to investigate only “sparingly,” typically only when there is clear and convincing evidence of systemic violations of

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<sup>1</sup> On May 10, 2025, Mr. Cobb formally filed a request for investigation via the Commission’s online portal. That request is duplicative of the May 5<sup>th</sup> request included with the Mr. Cobb’s request for reconsideration. As his request is already being addressed through this response, his May 10<sup>th</sup> request has not been docketed and his filing fee has been refunded.

Chapter 31 or an entrenched political or personal bias that can be rectified through the Commission's affirmative remedial intervention. As the Appellant has failed to present such evidence, an investigation is not warranted.

Since the Appellant's motion did not identify a clerical or mechanical error in the decision or a significant factor the Commission or the presiding officer may have overlooked in deciding the case, his motion for reconsideration is *denied*. Further, for the above reasons, the request for investigation is *denied* as well.

Civil Service Commission

/s/ Christopher Bowman

Christopher C. Bowman

Chair

By vote of the Civil Service Commission (Bowman, Chair; Dooley, Markey, McConney and Stein, Commissioners) on May 15, 2025.

Notice to:

Stephen A. Cobb (Appellant)

Eamonn Sullivan, Esq. (for Respondent)