

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

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

Tracking Number: I-25-075

Re: Request for Investigation by Saviel Colon regarding the Boston Police Department

RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION

Background

On March 22, 2025, the Petitioner, Saviel Colon (Petitioner or Mr. Colon), a former permanent, full-time police officer for the Boston Police Department (BPD), filed a request for investigation with the Commission regarding the alleged “systematic violations of civil service law, basic merit principles, due process and civil rights by the Boston Police Department.”

On May 6, 2025, I held a remote show cause conference which was attended by the Petitioner and co-counsel for the BPD. On May 7, 2025, the Petitioner submitted additional documents for the Commission to review.

Previously, in a [decision issued by the Commission on November 30, 2023](#), the Commission dismissed an appeal by Mr. Colon for two reasons. First, the Commission may not hear an appeal regarding a separation from employment for being absent without leave (AWOL). Pursuant to Section 38 of Chapter 31, AWOL-related matters must be appealed to the Appointing Authority, with further appeal rights to the state’s Human Resources Division (HRD). Second, Mr. Colon failed to appeal his prior suspension to the Commission within the 10-day statutory filing deadline. On December 28, 2023, the Commission denied Mr. Colon’s motion to reconsider its November 30, 2023 decision.

Current Petition

As part of the current petition, Mr. Colon argues that, “... despite [the Commission’s prior] decision I believe that the unlawful suspension by the Boston Police Department, which eventually lead to my termination, warrants an investigation by the Commission ...”.

Commission’s Authority to Conduct Investigations

The Commission, established pursuant to G.L. c. 7, § 4I, is an independent, neutral appellate tribunal and investigative entity. Section 2(a) of Chapter 31 grants the Commission broad discretion upon receipt of an alleged violation of the civil service law’s provisions to decide whether and to what extent an investigation might be appropriate. Further, Section 72 of Chapter 31 provides for the Commission to “investigate all or part of the official and labor

services, the work, duties and compensation of the persons employed in such services, the number of persons employed in such services and the titles, ratings and methods of promotion in such services.” The Commission exercises its discretion to investigate only “sparingly,” typically only when there is clear and convincing evidence of systemic violations of Chapter 31 or an entrenched political or personal bias that can be rectified through the Commission’s affirmative remedial intervention.

Commission’s Response

Initiation of an investigation is not warranted here. The crux of Mr. Colon’s current petition involves precisely the same issues that he brought before the Commission in 2023 related to a suspension and separation from employment. As stated above, the Commission lacked jurisdiction to hear either matter as the suspension appeal was untimely and any appeal rights related to the separation from employment fall under Section 38 of the civil service law, which allows the separated employee to file an appeal with the Appointing Authority and then the state’s Human Resources Division (HRD). Mr. Colon failed to exercise those appeal rights at the time and allowing Mr. Colon’s request to open an investigation in 2025 regarding the same issues would effectively circumvent the statutory filing requirements related to suspensions as well as AWOL-related separations.

For this reason, I recommend that the Commission ***deny*** the Petitioner’s request for investigation.

Civil Service Commission

Christopher C. Bowman
Christopher C. Bowman
Chair

On May 15, 2025, the Commission (Bowman, Chair; Dooley, Markey, McConney and Stein, Commissioners) voted to accept the recommendation of the Chair and deny the Petitioner’s request for investigation.

Notice:

Saviel Colon (Petitioner)

Omar Bennani, Esq. (for Boston Police Department)