

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

In the Matter of a Complaint by

FINAL DECISION

Louise Czar,

Complainant

against

Docket #FIC 2016-0695

Edward Brown, Chief, Bantam Fire
Company; and Bantam Fire Company,

Respondents

February 8, 2017

The above-captioned matter was scheduled to be heard as a contested case on January 3, 2017 at 11:00 A.M., at which time the respondents appeared, but the complainant did not appear to prosecute the case.

The hearing officer notes that Edward Brown, President of the Bantam Fire Company, appeared at the hearing with Jane Sparks, Treasurer of the Bantam Fire Company. Mr. Brown and Ms. Sparks represented that they are both volunteers for the Bantam Fire Company, and both work private sector jobs in addition to their volunteer work. Mr. Brown is self-employed and appearing at the hearing meant that he had to miss two-thirds of a day's work and forgo the associated salary. Ms. Sparks is employed in the healthcare industry. Her appearance at the hearing meant that she had to miss a five-hour shift and forgo the associated salary. In addition, it took Mr. Brown and Ms. Sparks fifty minutes to travel from Bantam to arrive at the hearing on time, only to have a five minute hearing and travel back to Bantam.

It is difficult to understand why, with all of the available means of technology, the complainant failed to notify the Commission that the hearing was not necessary. This is the second time that this complainant has not appeared for a hearing with these respondents before this hearing officer.

The following order by the Commission is hereby recommended on the basis of the record concerning the above-captioned complaint:

1. The complaint is hereby dismissed.
2. The complainant is admonished for her failure to appear at the hearing in this matter, which failure resulted in a waste of scarce state and local resources.

Approved by Order of the Freedom of Information Commission at its regular meeting of February 8, 2017.


Cynthia A. Cannata

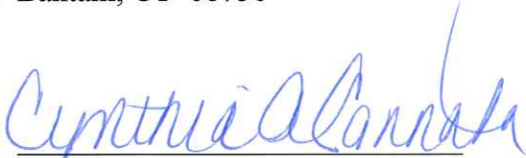
Acting Clerk of the Commission

PURSUANT TO SECTION 4-180(c), G.S., THE FOLLOWING ARE THE NAMES OF EACH PARTY AND THE MOST RECENT MAILING ADDRESS, PROVIDED TO THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COMMISSION, OF THE PARTIES OR THEIR AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE.

THE PARTIES TO THIS CONTESTED CASE ARE:

Louise Czar
400 Bantam Lake Road
Bantam, CT 06750

Edward Brown, Chief, Bantam Fire Company;
and Bantam Fire Company
92 Doyle Road
P.O. Box 456
Bantam, CT 06750



Cynthia A. Cannata
Cynthia A. Cannata
Acting Clerk of the Commission