### STATE OF FLORIDA STATE BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION

EUGENE WALTON,	)	
Petitioner,	)	
vs.	)	Case No. 2007-985
STATE BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION,	)	
Respondent.	) .	
	)	

#### **FINAL ORDER**

On June 17, 2008, the presiding officer submitted her Recommended Order to the State Board of Administration in this proceeding. A copy of the Recommended Order indicates that copies were served upon the pro se Petitioner, Eugene Walton, and upon counsel for the Respondent. Respondent filed a Proposed Recommended Order. Neither party filed Exceptions, which were due on July 2, 2008. A copy of the Recommended Order is attached hereto as Exhibit A. The matter is now pending before the Senior Defined Contribution Programs Officer for final agency action.

#### **ORDERED**

The Recommended Order (Exhibit A) is hereby adopted in its entirety. The Petitioner's request that the Respondent release its hold on Petitioner's FRS Investment Plan account until the charges against him are resolved is denied. Note that the charges were resolved at a jury trial on June 20, 2008, in which Petitioner was found not guilty.

Any party to this proceeding has the right to seek judicial review of the Final Order pursuant to Section 120.68, Florida Statutes, by the filing of a Notice of Appeal pursuant to Rule 9.110, Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure, with the Clerk of the State Board of Administration in the Office of the General Counsel, State Board of Administration, 1801 Hermitage Boulevard, Suite 200, Tallahassee, Florida, 32308, and by filing a copy of the Notice of Appeal accompanied by the applicable filing fees with the appropriate District Court of Appeal. The Notice of Appeal must be filed within thirty (30) days from the date the Final Order is filed with the Clerk of the State Board of Administration.

DONE AND ORDERED this 8th day of July, 2008, in Tallahassee, Florida.

STATE OF FLORIDA STATE BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION

Ron Poppell, Senior Defined Contribution Programs Officer State Board of Administration 1801 Hermitage Boulevard, Suite 100 Tallahassee, Florida 32308 (850) 488-4406

FILED ON THIS DATE PURSUANT TO SECTION 120.52, FLORIDA STATUTES WITH THE DESIGNATED CLERK OF THE STATE BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION, RECEIPT OF WHICH IS HEREBY ACKNOWLEDGED.

Clerk TINA JOANOS

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Final Order

was sent by UPS to Eugene Walton, pro se,
, and by U.S. mail to Brian Newman and Brandice Dickson, Esq., at
Pennington, Moore, Wilkinson, Bell & Dunbar, P.A., P.O. Box 10095, Tallahassee,
Florida 32302-2095, this <u>8th</u> day of <u>yely</u> , 2008.
Rut L. Mohel
Ruth L. Gokel
Assistant General Counsel
State Board of Administration of Florida
1801 Hermitage Boulevard
Suite 100
Tallahassee, FL 32308

#### STATE OF FLORIDA STATE BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION

STATE BOARD OF ADMIN

08 JUN 18 PH 3: 09

GENERAL COUNSEL'S OFFICE

CASE NO.: 2007-985

EUGENE WALTON,

Petitioner,

v.

STATE BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION,

Respondent.

#### **RECOMMENDED ORDER**

This case was heard in an informal proceeding before the undersigned Presiding Officer for the State Board of Administration (SBA) on January 25, 2008, in Tallahassee, Florida. The appearances were as follows:

#### **APPEARANCES**

For Petitioner:

Eugene Walton, pro se

Petitioner

For Respondent:

Brian A. Newman, Esquire

Pennington, Moore, Wilkinson,

Bell & Dunbar, P.A. Post Office Box 10095

Tallahassee, Florida 32302-2095

#### STATEMENT OF THE ISSUE

At issue is whether the Respondent SBA properly placed a hold on the Petitioner's Florida Retirement System account in light of the criminal charges pending against him.

Extibit A

#### PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

On September 12, 2007, the Respondent placed a hold on the Petitioner's Florida Retirement System (FRS) Investment Plan account as a result of criminal charges having been brought against him. On October 10, 2007, the Petitioner filed a Petition for Hearing asserting that Respondent could not place a hold on his FRS account absent a conviction on those criminal charges. An informal hearing was held on this Petition on January 25, 2008, before the undersigned. Petitioner attended the informal hearing by telephone. Respondent attended the hearing in person and presented the testimony of Dan Beard, Director of Policy, Risk Management and Compliance. Respondent's Exhibits R-1 through R-3 were admitted into evidence without objection; Petitioner did not submit any exhibits.

A transcript of the informal hearing was made, filed with the agency on February 12, 2008, and made available to the parties. The parties were invited to submit proposed recommended orders within 30 days after the transcript was filed. Respondent filed a proposed recommended order; Petitioner made no further filings.

#### UNDISPUTED MATERIAL FACTS

- 1. Petitioner was a deputy sheriff with the Volusia County Sheriff's Office in September 2007.
- 2. On September 11, 2007, the Petitioner was arrested for allegedly agreeing to participate in a robbery of a drug trafficker by utilizing his position as a deputy sheriff and using department-issued equipment to do so.

- 3. As a result of his arrest, Petitioner was charged with one felony count of Conspiracy to Commit Robbery, Section 812.13, Florida Statutes; one felony count of Unlawful Compensation, Section 838.016, Florida Statutes; and one misdemeanor count of Misuse of Confidential Information, Section 839.26, Florida Statutes.
- 4. Because of these criminal charges, Respondent placed a hold on Petitioner's FRS Investment Plan account.
- 5. Petitioner filed a Petition for Hearing asserting that Respondent lacked the authority to place his FRS Investment Plan account on hold absent a conviction.
- 6. At hearing, Petitioner acknowledged that the charges had not been disposed and they remained pending against him.
- 7. Petitioner acknowledged also that the funds in his FRS Investment Plan account were solely employer-contributed funds, and that he had not contributed his own money to that account.

#### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

- 8. Sections 121.091(5)(f) and (j), Florida Statutes (2007) state:
  - (5) Termination benefits.—

(f) Any member who has been found guilty by a verdict of a jury, or by the court trying the case without a jury, of committing, aiding, or abetting any embezzlement or theft from his or her employer, bribery in connection with the employment, or other felony specified in chapter 838, except ss. 838.15 and 838.16, committed prior to retirement, or who has entered a plea of guilty or of nolo contendere to such crime, or any member whose employment is terminated by reason of the member's admitted commitment, aiding, or abetting of an embezzlement or theft from his or her employer, bribery, or other felony specified in chapter 838, except ss. 838.15 and 838.16, shall

forfeit all rights and benefits under this chapter, except the return of his or her accumulated contributions as of the date of termination.

. . .

(j) Benefits shall not be paid by the division pending final resolution of such charges against a member or beneficiary if the resolution of such charges could require the forfeiture of benefits as provided in paragraph (f), paragraph (g), paragraph (h), or paragraph (i).

§§ 121.091(5)(f) and (j), Fla.Stat. (2007).

9. The Petitioner has been charged with, among other things, a felony violation of Section 838.016, Florida Statutes. That section states:

#### 838.016. Unlawful compensation or reward for official behavior

- (1) It is unlawful for any person corruptly to give, offer, or promise to any public servant, or, if a public servant, corruptly to request, solicit, accept, or agree to accept, any pecuniary or other benefit not authorized by law, for the past, present, or future performance, nonperformance, or violation of any act or omission which the person believes to have been, or the public servant represents as having been, either within the official discretion of the public servant, in violation of a public duty, or in performance of a public duty. Nothing herein shall be construed to preclude a public servant from accepting rewards for services performed in apprehending any criminal.
- (2) It is unlawful for any person corruptly to give, offer, or promise to any public servant, or, if a public servant, corruptly to request, solicit, accept, or agree to accept, any pecuniary or other benefit not authorized by law for the past, present, or future exertion of any influence upon or with any other public servant regarding any act or omission which the person believes to have been, or which is represented to him or her as having been, either within the official discretion of the other public servant, in violation of a public duty, or in performance of a public duty.
- (3) Prosecution under this section shall not require that the exercise of influence or official discretion, or violation of a public duty or performance of a public duty, for which a pecuniary or other benefit

was given, offered, promised, requested, or solicited was accomplished or was within the influence, official discretion, or public duty of the public servant whose action or omission was sought to be rewarded or compensated.

(4) Whoever violates the provisions of this section commits a felony of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

#### § 838.016, Fla.Stat.

- 10. Because the Petitioner has been charged with a violation of section 838.016, a felony, no benefits can be paid to him from his FRS account until final disposition of this charge. See § 121.091(5)(j), Fla.Stat. (2007).
- 11. Respondent rightfully notified Petitioner that no distribution (benefit) would be payable during the period of time the charges were pending against him. The practical result of this action is that Petitioner's FRS Investment Plan account is frozen pending disposition of the charges.
- 12. Depending on the outcome of the charges against him, Petitioner may ultimately have to forfeit his FRS benefit. See §§ 112.3173 and 121.091(5)(f), Fla.Stat. If forfeiture is sought, Petitioner has the right to a Chapter 120 hearing and review by a district court of appeal. Section 112.3173, Florida Statutes, states, in pertinent part:

## 112.3173. Felonies involving breach of public trust and other specified offenses by public officers and employees; forfeiture of retirement benefits

- (e) "Specified offense" means:
- 4. Any felony specified in chapter 838, except ss. 838.15 and 838.16;
- 5. The committing of an impeachable offense; or

- 6. The committing of any felony by a public officer or employee who, willfully and with intent to defraud the public or the public agency for which the public officer or employee acts or in which he or she is employed of the right to receive the faithful performance of his or her duty as a public officer or employee, realizes or obtains, or attempts to realize or obtain, a profit, gain, or advantage for himself or herself or for some other person through the use or attempted use of the power, rights, privileges, duties, or position of his or her public office or employment position.
- (3) Forfeiture.—Any public officer or employee who is convicted of a specified offense committed prior to retirement, or whose office or employment is terminated by reason of his or her admitted commission, aid, or abetment of a specified offense, shall forfeit all rights and benefits under any public retirement system of which he or she is a member, except for the return of his or her accumulated contributions as of the date of termination.

#### (5) Forfeiture determination .--

- (a) Whenever the official or board responsible for paying benefits under a public retirement system receives notice pursuant to subsection (4), or otherwise has reason to believe that the rights and privileges of any person under such system are required to be forfeited under this section, such official or board shall give notice and hold a hearing in accordance with chapter 120 for the purpose of determining whether such rights and privileges are required to be forfeited. If the official or board determines that such rights and privileges are required to be forfeited, the official or board shall order such rights and privileges forfeited.
- (b) Any order of forfeiture of retirement system rights and privileges is appealable to the district court of appeal.

§ 112.3173, Fla.Stat. (2007).

13. Section 121.4501(8)(a), Florida Statutes obligates the Respondent to administer the Investment Plan. The Respondent is not authorized to depart from the requirements of this statute

when exercising its jurisdiction, <u>Balezentis v. Department of Management Services</u>, <u>Division of Retirement</u>, 2005 WL 517476 (Fla.Div.Admin.Hrgs.), and Respondent's construction and application of the statutes it is charged to implement are entitled to great weight and will be followed unless proven to be clearly erroneous or amounting to an abuse of discretion. <u>Level 3 Communications v. C.V. Jacobs</u>, 841 So. 2d 447, 450 (Fla. 2002); <u>Okeechobee Health Care v. Collins</u>, 726 So. 2d 775 (Fla. 1st DCA 1998).

14. No authority has been cited that would authorize the Respondent to depart from the statutory requirement in §121.091(5)(j), Florida Statutes, that benefits not be paid pending resolution of the type of charges brought against Petitioner.

#### RECOMMENDATION

Having considered the law and the undisputed facts in this matter, I recommend that the Respondent, State Board of Administration, issue a final order denying the relief requested.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this /7 (Lday of June, 2008.

Anne Longman, Esquire

Presiding Officer

For the State Board of Administration

Lewis, Longman & Walker, P.A.

P.O. Box 16098

Tallahassee, FL 32317

#### **NOTICE: THIS IS NOT A FINAL ORDER**

All parties have the right to submit written exceptions within 15 days from the date of this Recommended Order, which should be filed with the Agency Clerk of the State Board of Administration. The SBA then will enter a Final Order which will set out the final agency decision in this case.

Copies furnished to:

Eugene Walton

Petitioner

Brandice D. Dickson, Esquire Pennington, Moore, Wilkinson, Bell & Dunbar, P.A. Post Office Box 10095 Tallahassee, Florida 32302-2095 Respondent Filed with:
Agency Clerk
Office of the General Counsel
Florida State Board of Administration
1801 Hermitage Blvd., Suite 100
Tallahassee, FL 32308
(850) 488-4406



## STATE BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION OF FLORIDA

Post Office Box 13300 32317-3300

1801 Hermitage Boulevard-Suite 100 Tallahassee, Florida 32308 (850) 488-4406 GOVERNOR
AS CHARMAN

ALBX RINK CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER AS TREASURER

BILL MCCOLLUM ATTORNEY GENERAL AS SECRETARY

HOR MILLIGAN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

June 24, 2008

Volusia County Clerk of Circuit Court ATTN: Christine

Re: Eugene Walton

07-35388CFAES-10NISOCIDATED 07-34806CFAESCHOITH 07-34806

Dear Christine:

Please forward a certified copy of the final disposition documents for person referenced above. Mr. Walton's date of birth is and his social security number is You may fax a copy to me at (850) 413-1489. The certified copy should be mailed to:

Daniel Beard
Office of Defined Contribution Program
State Board of Administration of Florida
P.O. Box 13300
Tallahassee, FL 32317-3300

If you have any questions, please call me at (850) 413-1495.

Sincerely,

Daniel Beard

Director of Policy, Risk Management, & Compliance

Office of Defined Contribution Programs

#### IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR VOLUSIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

STATE OF FLORIDA

VS.

CASE NO.: 2007-34806CFAES

EUGENE AARON WALTON / Defendant

#### **VERDICT**

WE THE JURY find the Defendant, EUGENE AARON WALTON, as follows: (Check only one).

COUNT I
GUILTY of the charge of CRIMINAL CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT ROBBERY as charged in the information.
 NOT GUILTY
COUNT II
GUILTY of the charge of UNLAWFUL COMPENSATION OF PUBLIC SERVANT as charged in the information.

NOT GUILTY
SO SAY WE ALL.

Dated at DAYTONA BEACH, VOLUSIA County, Florida, this <u>2でわ</u>day of June, 2008

25 cares June 2008

Deputy Clark page 10F1

FOREIERSON IN OF

JUN 2 0 2000

## VOLUSIA COUNTY COURT ACTION FORM CASE: 0.7-34806CFRES COURT/SESSION TYPE: CRC/TRL

VS ALTON, EUGENE AARON SBD DEA	DATE 06/20/2003 TIME: 08: 30 AM JUDGE HUTCHESON ATTY: GRAZIANO, 6AM BNA: MANN AND SEM	VERSON	JUSTICE CE	TRLUK 2		AVE., DAVID	DIANE M CLERK OF VOLUSIA P.O. BOX DELAND,	COUN 6043	CIRCUIT O NTY, FLOF
PARTIES PRESENT	RELEASE ACTIONS		/CAPIAS/ESTREAT	CONTINUED TO:		BY DEF.	BY STATE	T	BY COURT
DEF. APPEARED APP. W/COUNSELD DEF. COUNSEL APP. W/OUT DEF. DEF. FAILED TO APPEAR	TOTAL BOND FOR CASE S AT \$  DEF. ROR'D	AT \$	S ISSUED-BOND SET	REMARKS:					
ATTORNEY STATUS	RELEASE TO PTS	CAPIAS WITHDRAWN			ST.	ATTOM FLORIDA, MO SPRO OCOUNT PARAG		UTV ∷SS£	OCI <b>EN</b>
<ul> <li>APP. IND. STATUS - PD APPT.</li> <li>APP. IND. STATUS - NOT INDIGENT</li> <li>PD APPT. BY COURT</li> <li>DEF. TO RETAIN COUNSEL</li> <li>PD WITHDREW ATTY. TO BE APPT</li> <li>OTHER:</li> </ul>	RELEASE TO PTS W/BOND OTHER: NO CONTACT W/VICTIM NO VIOL. CONTACT W/VICTIM OTHER:	BOND ESTR. SET ASIDE OTHER:		25 cayon Jun			Look and Causey <b>Court</b>		
CHARGE	T	COURT	ACTION	INCARCERATION/P	ROBATION/COMMUNITY CO	NTROL INFORMATION	ı	COS	TS
JO AJM/NISUSE OF CONFIN		N.G. PLEA GUILTY PLEA NOLO PLEA N.G. VERDICT GLTY. VERDICT MISTRIAL  PSI ORDERED TO BE SENT: _	NO INFO. NOLLE PROSS. DISMISSED JGMT ACQT. ADJ. WITHHELD ADJ. GUILTY  PDR ORDERED	DOC PROB COM. CONT DRUG OFFENE JAIL CREDIT TI CONCURRENT HRS. SUBST. ABUSE C	ME: DY  CONSECUTIVE TO: _ COM. SERVICE  OUNSEL/TREAT.	PROB. REINSTATED  C.C. REINSTATED  PROB. MODIFIED  C.C. MODIFIED  STANDARD COND  PREVIOUS COND.	CRT. COSTS FINE \$ PD FEE \$ SAO FEE \$ LEO FEE \$		
DO A/M/MISUSEDFCONFIDEN		N.G. PLEA	SUNO INFO.		NO ALCOHOL./ILL. DRUG	COS WAIVED  PROB. REVOKED			
ాల… కల్లా కాయా కకముపులు అను మీచి మీచికి మీచికి మీచి మీది		GUILTY PLEA NOLO PLEA N.G. VERDICT	NOLLE PROSS.  DISMISSED  JGMT ACQT.	DOCY PROBY COM. CONT DRUG OFFEND	RMODY RMODYYRMO ER	C.C. REVOKED PROB. REINSTATED C.C. REINSTATED PROB. MODIFIED	CRT. COSTS: FINE \$ PD FEE \$ SAO FEE \$		
1ENDED CHARGE:		MISTRIAL	ADJ. GUILTY	O JAIL CREDIT TI O CONCURRENT	ME: DY  CONSECUTIVE TO: _	C.C. MODIFIED	LEO FEE \$		N
OND SET AT \$	1	PSI ORDERED TO BE SENT:	O PDR ORDERED	HRS. SUBST. ABUSE CO	COM. SERVICE DUNSEL/TREAT.  NO ALCOHOL./ILL. DRUG	STANDARD COND.  PREVIOUS COND.  COS WAIVED	REST. \$		
n1	A								

# VOLUSIA COUNTY COURT ACTION FORM TATE OF FLORIDA ON THE CARCATRIL

VS  ALTON, EUGENE AARON SBD DEA PN:	DATE DE 2020 AM TIME: 08:30 AM JUDGE: HUTCHESON ATTY: GRAZIANO GA BNA: MANN AND SE OURTER #1, VOLU	WEDGON	JUSTICE CE	TRLUK 2	AVE., DAVIO	CLERK OF VOLUSIA ( P.O. BOX (	
PARTIES PRESENT	RELEASE ACTIONS		Y/CAPIAS/ESTREAT	CONTINUED TO:	BY DEF.	BY STATE	BY COURT
DEF. APPEARED APP. W/COUNSEL DEF. COUNSEL APP. W/OUT DEF. DEF. FAILED TO APPEAR	TOTAL BOND FOR CASE AT \$  DEF. ROR'D	AT \$ BOND ESTREATED CAPIAS WITHDRAWN DND BOND REINSTATED BOND ESTR. SET ASIDE OTHER:		REMARKS: July Trial	1 151 551.	DISTALL	BI COOM!
ATTORNEY STATUS  APP. IND. STATUS - PD APPT.  APP. IND. STATUS - NOT INDIGENT  PD APPT. BY COURT  DEF. TO RETAIN COUNSEL  PD WITHDREW  ATTY. TO BE APPT  OTHER:	RELEASE TO PTS RELEASE TO PTS W/BON OTHER: NO CONTACT W/VICTIM NO VIOL. CONTACT W/VICTIM OTHER:						
CHARGE		COURT	ACTION	INCARCERATION/PROBATION/COMMUNITY CO	NTROL INFORMATION	T	COSTS
)1 P/CONSPIRACE TO COMM  IENDED CHARGE:  ND SET AT \$		N.G. PLEA GUILTY PLEA NOLO PLEA N.G. VERDICT GLTY. VERDIC MISTRIAL PSI ORDERED TO BE SENT:	ADJ. WITHHELD ADJ. GUILTY	VCJMODY  DOCYRMODY  PROBYRMODY  COM. CONTYRMO  DRUG OFFENDER  SEX OFFENDER  JAIL CREDIT TIME:DY  CONCURRENT  CONSECUTIVE TO: _  HRS. COM. SERVICE  SUBST. ABUSE COUNSEL/TREAT.  RANDOM U/A  NO ALCOHOL/ILL. DRUG	PROB. REVOKED  C.C. REVOKED  PROB. REINSTATED  C.C. REINSTATED  PROB. MODIFIED  C.C. MODIFIED  STANDARD COND  PREVIOUS COND.  COS WAIVED	CRT. COSTS \$ FINE \$ PD FEE \$ SAO FEE \$ LEO FEE \$ REST. \$ OTHER:	
2 P/UNLAWFUL COMPENSAT  ENDED CHARGE:  ND SET AT \$		MISTRIAL	ADJ. WITHHELD  ADJ. GUILTY  PDR ORDERED	VCJMODY  DOCYRMODY  PROBYRMODY  COM. CONTYRMO  DRUG OFFENDER  SEX OFFENDER  JAIL CREDIT TIME:DY  CONCURRENT  CONSECUTIVE TO:  HRS. COM. SERVICE  SUBST. ABUSE COUNSEL/TREAT.  RANDOM U/A  NO ALCOHOL/ILL_DRUG	PROB. REVOKED C.C. REVOKED PROB. REINSTATED C.C. REINSTATED PROB. MODIFIED C.C. MODIFIED STANDARD COND. PREVIOUS COND. COS WAIVED	CRT. COSTS \$ FINE \$ PD FEE \$ SAO FEE \$ LEO FEE \$ REST. \$ OTHER:	