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THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT		
тнг	UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK	
In the Matter of		
NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION		
	V.	
	THEODORE SMITH	
Section 302	20-a Education Law Proceeding (File #5,432	
DATE:	October 1, 2007	
TIME:	10:04 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.	
LOCATION:	NYC Department of Education	
	Office of Legal Services	
	49-51 Chambers Street	
	New York, New York 10004	
BEFORE:	HOWARD EDELMAN, ESQ.	
	Hearing Officer	
	119 Andover Road	
	Rockville Center, NY 11570	

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                                                               Theodore Smith - 10-1-2007
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    APPEARANCES:
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                                                            INDEX OF PROCEEDINGS
3
           FOR THE COMPLAINANT:
                                                    3
                                                        Closing Argument by Ms. Jalowski
                                                                                                 2052
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             SUSAN JALOWSKI, ESQ., of Counsel
             MICHAEL BEST, ESQ.
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           FOR THE RESPONDENT:
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             WILLIAM GERARD, ESQ.
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           Theodore Smith - 10-1-2007
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                                                               Theodore Smith - 10-1-2007
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               THE HEARING OFFICER: Good
                                                    2
                                                        intend to make at this time?
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    morning. This is a proceeding in the Matter of
                                                    3
                                                                   MR. GERARD: Well, I'm,
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    the New York City Department of Education
                                                    4
                                                        the -- the position that we're taking in this
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    versus Theodore Smith, State Education file
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                                                        matter is that if there is to be a -- a
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    number 5,432.
                                                    6
                                                        continuation of the hearing, that it should be
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                                                    7
                                                        a de novo hearing. And we've submitted some
               My name is Howard Edelman,
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    the hearing officer, designated to hear and
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                                                        written material.
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    decide this dispute. I note that on behalf of
                                                    9
                                                                   THE HEARING OFFICER: I
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    the Department, Ms. Jalowski is present and she
                                                   10
                                                        received it.
    has just gone out front to see if Mr. Smith and
                                                                   MR. GERARD: And you have
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    his counsel, Mr. Gerard are here. And as soon
                                                   12
                                                        issued sort of a decision.
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    as they come in we will begin the proceedings.
                                                   13
                                                                   THE HEARING OFFICER: Yes.
    Christine, you can stay off for a bit. Okay?
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                                                   14
                                                                   MR. GERARD: Or ruling
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              THE REPORTER: Okay. I'll
                                                        dealing with that. We're -- we're adhering
                                                   15
                                                        essentially to the same position. I'm not
16
    put you on pause.
                                                   16
17
              THE HEARING OFFICER: Thanks.
                                                        intending to take the offer to, you know, to
                                                   17
18
                                                        try to supplement the record. The -- the --
               (Off the record)
                                                   18
19
              THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay.
                                                        the -- my feeling is from looking at the
                                                   19
    We have Ms. Jalowski present, Mr. Smith present 20
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                                                        history of the matter and -- and the documents,
21
    and Mr. Gerard present. So we are all here. I
                                                   21
                                                        as the incoming arbitrator, you may not be
22 am in receipt of an e-mail communication
                                                        familiar with some of the things. You have
                                                   22
23
    between Mr. Gerard and what he intends to do,
                                                   23
                                                        indicated that you've read the -- the existing
24 but let me ask him now, what arguments do you
                                                        record.
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Page 2006

Page 2005

1 Theodore Smith - 10-1-2007 2 THE HEARING OFFICER: 3 Correct. 4 MR. GERARD: But there's also 5 a number of things that sort of go a little bit

outside the existing record which have an impact on our -- on our decision here, as well. So, we're -- we're making an appearance to -to put our position on the record and to supply some, you know, additional information. But basically it's -- it's our feeling that the -the -- the proceedings had thus far, really are so tainted and so defective that -- that they shouldn't play any role in this matter as and

when it goes forward or if it goes forward. And that's for a number of reasons. 16

17 One of the -- one of the difficult things here was the breakdown between 18 19 Mr. Smith and his own attorney which surfaced in the form of the attorney making, what I 20 21 believe, are unethical ex parte communications with both the arbitrator and the attorney for 22 23 the City.

You know people can debate

Theodore Smith - 10-1-2007 whether the underlying situation occurred, whether his accusations, you know, were -- were accurate or inaccurate. But certainly the way of handling a problem with a client and this -- his problem with his client seems to have been largely fee generated. This was a case where the lawyer had a contingency fee arrangement involving a pending Federal case and he ended up handling the disciplinary matter as well.

And, then, at some point during the disciplinary matter, he attempted to have the client accept a settlement. When the client wouldn't accept the settlement, we have a series of communications going back and forth between the lawver and the client. Essentially since March at some point the lawyer was basically insisting that the client owed him, you know, some large amount of money, like fifty thousand dollars, when they had a contingency fee arrangement on the whole case. And was essentially pressuring him to accept an unfavorable, what he viewed as an unfavorable

Page 2007

Theodore Smith - 10-1-2007 resolution that would resolve not only the disciplinary case but would resolve the Federal lawsuit as well.

And I'm in a difficult position here because I don't know, as the incoming attorney, I have a problem proceeding on this record, as well. The prior attorney, Mr. Kearney and -- and his firm has essentially refused to communicate with me. They refuse to 10 supply the contents of their file to Mr. Smith. They then indicated that if I contacted them, they would cooperate with me. So, when I contacted them and asked them for records, I

15 haven't heard back from them. The first thing 16 I asked them for was records involving any stay that they claimed. I have --. 17 18 THE HEARING OFFICER: A stay

19 in the Federal proceeding or a stay in this 20 proceeding?

21 MR. GERARD: A stay in the 22 Federal proceeding. I can supply for the 23 parties here, this is one page, it's actually not a great copy. But this is one page of an

Page 2008 Theodore Smith - 10-1-2007

affirmation, which Mr. Kearney submitted to the Federal court in an application to be relieved as counsel. And if you look at paragraph twenty-three, in or around November '06 however, upon motion by defendants, this honorable court decided over opposition and objection by Smith to stay the Federal action pending the outcome of the 3020 proceeding citing collateral estoppels concerns to a related problem of inconsistent judgments as well as concerns regarding judicial efficiency.

Well, there was no contested motion in the Federal court. I went and checked the docket. There's no motion papers. There's no decision from the Judge.

MS. JALOWSKI: Mr. Gerard, I'm sorry to interrupt, that's not true. I sent you -- I gave you an e-mail giving you the Judge's order that he refers to here. It was opposition and objection. There was no written motion. It was an oral objection when the Judge said she was staying the proceedings on

3 (Pages 2005 to 2008)

Page 2009 Page 2010 1 Theodore Smith - 10-1-2007 1 Theodore Smith - 10-1-2007 2 MR. GERARD: Well --. I mean I -- I practice in Federal court. I 3 MS. JALOWSKI: So that is know when -- when you write a letter and it's so-ordered at the bottom. This was not 4 what happened and here, here it is. 4 5 THE HEARING OFFICER: Hold 5 so-ordered. This was some kind of a, it 6 on. I understand what Ms. Jalowski's saying, 6 appears to me to be some kind of a stipulation. 7 but I just don't want to get into a back and 7 Something that they sat down and discussed and 8 forth. 8 agreed upon. And I have, you know, this was 9 not disclosed to the client. It was presented MR. GERARD: Right. 10 THE HEARING OFFICER: Just 10 to him at the time and subsequently as a 11 finish everything you have to say. I may have 11 contested written motion, which his attorneys 12 a question or two for you and then I'll let Ms. 12 allegedly opposed. And I have e-mails where 13 Jalowski -they talk about attempting to lift the stay and 14 MR. GERARD: Sure. 14 that sort of thing. The whole thing appears to 15 THE HEARING OFFICER: -- say be somewhat of a sham in terms of how they were whatever she wishes. Go ahead. dealing with Mr. Smith. 16 16 17 MR. GERARD: The -- the 17 Then the -- the proceeding document, which has now been provided. goes forward. The arbitration proceeding goes 18 18 19 THE HEARING OFFICER: Right. forward and there are settlement discussions, 19 20 20 which I have no problem with. I've been an MR. GERARD: It was never attorney for -- for twenty-five years. I've 21 provided to me by Mr. Kearney. It was provided 21 engaged in settlement discussions. You know, 22 to me by the Department of Education and by the 22 23 Federal court has now provided it to me. 23 they're -- they're generally without prejudice 24 But -- and it's not an order. It's a letter. and, you know, all kinds of things get Page 2011 Page 2012 1 Theodore Smith - 10-1-2007 1 Theodore Smith - 10-1-2007 discussed. I understand that. But, and I have had a contingency arrangement and the 3 again a series of e-mails back and forth settlement at least on Mr. Smith's end, did not 4 between the attorney and Mr. Smith where they involve any monetary payment to him, no 4 were -- where they outlined a proposed compensation for -- for settling the case or 5 settlement involving him taking a U-rating and 6 6 withdrawing the case. Now, I suspect that part 7 a -- and a suspension for some period of time. 7 of the settlement terms that were offered to And it would avoid termination, but it also Mr. Kearney by -- in either the Federal action 8 9 involved withdrawing or settling the Federal 9 or in this action or as -- as a joint offer was 10 action, as well. 10 some payment of the attorney's compensation. 11 Now, the -- the curious thing MS. JALOWSKI: That's not 11 12 that appears from this scenario and the series 12 correct. of correspondence, is that I don't know what 13 13 THE HEARING OFFICER: Let him provisions were made. Maybe Ms. Jalowski knows 14 14 finish. 15 for paying Mr. Smith's attorney's fees as part 15 MR. GERARD: All right. Well 16 of the settlement of the Federal action. And I don't know because the prior attorney will 16 17 as part of the global settlement. Nowhere in not give me any documents, any notes, any 17 18 any of the documents where Mr. Kearney 18 correspondence. 19 communicates with Mr. Smith and offers him, and So, whatever occurred with 19 20 describes the terms of his settlement. Nowhere 20 the Federal court in terms of this stay, I 21 in those documents does he address the payment 21 haven't seen. It's not in the Court file. 22 of the attorney's fees, which at that point I've looked at the hard file and the E.C.F. 22 23 were somewhat about fifty thousand or 23 file. The attorney won't give it to me. And 24 fifty-seven thousand dollars. And Mr. Smith it was only when Mr. Smith refused to accept

Page 2013

Theodore Smith - 10-1-2007 the settlement, that the attorney then said well, you know, you owe me all this money now. I want you to sign this paper acknowledging you owe me all this money. So, you know, I don't know the answer because no one will give me the documents, or -- or provide me with the information that I need to kind of evaluate this. But, it appears to me that they bought a Federal case. They somehow stipulated or agreed to stay discovery in the Federal case while this went forward. At some point during this the attorney soured on the 15 case and on the client. His fees got up to an unmanageable amount and he wanted to bail in a way that would accomplish some -- cut his loses or -- or pay his attorney's fees. And I cannot 19 get to the bottom of it yet. I may have to go 20 to the ethics committee to obtain these documents and sort out what really happened 22 here. But, what we have was a -- a breakdown between Mr. Smith and his attorney. Now, at the point that this

Theodore Smith - 10-1-2007
breakdown occurred and we have all the e-mails where the attorney says in his e-mail, that if you don't go along with what I'm proposing, things are going to get ugly. That's a quote from Mr. Kearney's e-mail. That's an e-mail I think of May 8th or thereabouts. And it was May 10th that things got ugly.

THE HEARING OFFICER: That's

May 10, '07?

MR. GERARD: Yeah.

THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. Go ahead.

MR. GERARD: And what -- what Mr. Kearney apparently did was first went to the City. I don't know if he went to you or he went to someone else in your Department and made what we claim are untrue allegations about Mr. Smith being, about the security downstairs failing to search Mr. Smith when he enters this building. And he expressed apparently to the City that he was in fear of his own client because his own client was -- was going crazy. And was not subject to search downstairs, as we

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Theodore Smith - 10-1-2007 came into this building. Now, I've only been in here once with my client. That's this morning. We went through the metal detectors like everyone else. He wasn't passed through. He had to empty his pockets. He had to go through the metal detectors. His possessions had to go through the x-ray machine. So, first of all we know that it's not true that he was not being searched as he came in. So any -- any -- any discussion or claim about this with the City is -- is -- is false.

But as a result apparently the City advised Mr. Kearney, well if you're so afraid of your own client or afraid of what you're client's going to do and the fact that he's not being searched, you know, bring it up with the arbitrator. Now, apparently there were.

20 MS. JALOWSKI: Mr. Gerard --.
21 THE HEARING OFFICER: No, no,
22 let him just finish. You just finish.
23 MR. GERARD: Apparently, he,
24 Mr. Kearney, then went to the arbitrator and

Page 2016

Theodore Smith - 10-1-2007 told him that Mr. Smith was threatening to you know beat him up and kill him. Now, these threats apparently occurred in February or March and they are now reported to the arbitrator in May, some two months later once the relationship of attorney/client broke down, because Mr. Smith would not accept the settlement.

So, here are these alleged threats that go unreported for two months. And then when the attorney/client relationship breaks down and the lawyer sends an e-mail to his client, saying if you don't go along with my recommendations here things are going to get ugly. The very next opportunity he goes to the arbitrator and tells him my client threatened to kill you.

Now, so here we have some ex parte communication that the client is not aware of. It's — it's, even if it were true that this occurred, this is not an ethical way for any attorney to handle it. The attorney can withdraw, there's a bunch of other things

5 (Pages 2013 to 2016)

Page 2017 Page 2018 1 Theodore Smith - 10-1-2007 1 Theodore Smith - 10-1-2007 2 the attorney can do rather than go to the 2 THE HEARING OFFICER: I 3 3 adversary and the arbitrator and disclose assume what you have on the paper, go ahead. 4 something like this. But this is how he chose 4 MR. GERARD: That's a 5 5 to deal with it. Now, once that's out in the verbatim transcript of additional, off the 6 open what the -- what the -- what the, 6 record, well this is actually on the record. 7 apparently and I'll give you the transcript 7 But it's not in the transcript that -- the 8 although I -- I know you've already seen some official transcript. So, if you want to know 8 9 of these matters. But this is -- this is the 9 what happened at the May 10th conference, you 10 transcript and I have three copies. This is 10 have to read both of those things. And you 11 the transcript of the May 10th phone conference still won't know what happened because the tape 11 12 where this comes out. And I'll also hand you 12 is essentially, the -- the speaking portion on what's an additional transcript. This stuff is the tape is about five minutes long, five, 13 13 14 not --. 14 eight minutes long. The session was something THE HEARING OFFICER: What --15 like an hour. So, during that session there were about three off-the-record conferences 16 what is this from, I just don't. 16 MR. GERARD: That is --. 17 where the parties called each other, where the 17 THE HEARING OFFICER: Other 18 18 attorneys and the arbitrator called each other 19 document. I understand from May 10th. on cell phones and discussed these matters 19 20 MR. GERARD: Right. That is 20 outside of the hearing of the client. Now, my from a tape recording that Mr. Smith made while understanding of -- of -- of an off-the-record 21 21 22 the phone conference was occurring. And I have 22 conference is something that is not 23 the tape here in this tape recorder if the 23 transcribed. It's not on the official record. 24 Court is inclined to listen to it. But --. 24 But the client is not excluded from it, you Page 2019 Page 2020 1 1 Theodore Smith - 10-1-2007 Theodore Smith - 10-1-2007 2 2 know. That's not what off the record means. don't look like a homicidal maniac. 3 And here what they did was repeatedly went off 3 MR. GERARD: They went 4 the record. Excluded the client from the through a script where the arbitrator purported 4 conversation. I've given you what is missing to recluse himself based on a letter he had 5 5 6 from the official tape. But we will never know 6 received you know ten days earlier when Mr. 7 what happened outside of this record and 7 Smith was saying Geez, I overheard some 8 outside of the hearing of Mr. Smith. But it's 8 settlement discussions. I think they're tilted 9 fairly clear if you look at the transcript that 9 against me in this regard, or whatever. 10 what occurred was the parties got together, Mr. Now, this was used as the Kearney spoke to Ms. Jalowski, they apparently basis on the record for the arbitrator to 11 11 12 spoke to the arbitrator. 12 recuse himself. And you can hear, you can see 13 THE HEARING OFFICER: Mr. Kearney. He basically says, you know, I 14 Jalowski. 14 think it was, not Ms. Jalowski but --. 15 MR. GERARD: Jalowski. 15 MS. JALOWSKI: Jalowski. MR. GERARD: Ms. Jalowski, 16 Apparently spoke to the 16 Arbitrator. And he set up, being -- being, you the -- the -- the other, Ms. Europe, Theresa 17 17 18 know deathly afraid of Mr. Smith, he set up a 18 Europe.

6 (Pages 2017 to 2020)

Basically, once the

and said that he recused himself for this

reason, and certainly he didn't disclose at

that time any of these ex parte communications.

Ms. Europe basically says,

arbitrator had gone through his script and --

script.

phone conference because he didn't want to be

did this over the phone and they went through a 22

THE HEARING OFFICER: You

face-to-face with him. Apparently everyone is

afraid he's a homicidal maniac. And, so, they

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Page 2021

1 Theodore Smith - 10-1-2007 2 Well, I think we've got to really go on the 3 record with a little more here and really disclose what's going on. And at that point 4 you can see Mr. Kearney gets nervous and says, 5 6 hey I -- I thought we had a deal here. I 7 thought we weren't going to go there. And Ms. 8 Europe says Well, I really think we have to 9 now. And they say, well let's -- let's talk 10 off the record again and sort this out. So 11 they go off the record again, and we don't know 12 what occurred there. And there's actually several sort of off the record, on the record, 13 off the record, on the record. That's where 15 this extra portion comes in. Then the arbitrator gets back 16

17 on. He says well, you know that's really not what was going on. That's only part of it. 18 19 The real reason is that the lawyer in his 20 ethical obligation came to me and told me his client is trying to kill me. And we had an 21 22 agreement that we were going to paint it one 23 way, but apparently now we have to come out 24 with the whole thing.

Theodore Smith - 10-1-2007 So the Arbitrator describes now that he was aware that there were these death threats and therefore, although the letter itself would not be grounds for recusal and he certainly would pay no attention to such

7 a letter. It's really this other situation that causes him to have to get off. 8

So, we don't know what occurred off the record. It certainly wasn't appropriate. And we're dealing now with -with a proceeding where the whole thing wasn't transcribed. I mean one of the requirements of these proceedings to ensure fairness and integrity is that a transcript be made. And here we are talking about proceeding ahead with the hearing where there's already been about thirteen sessions and we know that there were off the record discussions, which the client was not privy to. There were on the record discussions, which are not contained in the transcript. And I don't feel comfortable relying on the work of a -- of a -- of a lawyer who does something like this, who sandbags his

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Theodore Smith - 10-1-2007 2 client, who makes statements that are -- are --3 are provably demonstrably untrue. Who attempts 4 to bail out of a case like this, under these circumstances. And, when he can't get his 5 6 client to go along, he then, basically what 7 happened was the City attorney and Mr. Kearney 8 sandbagged the arbitration. The arranged for 9 the arbitrator to have a reason to recuse 10 himself and put this thing back in this present 11 posture.

12 And -- and now we want to 13 rely on this record to proceed ahead. And I --14 I -- I just don't think it's appropriate. The 15 other thing, and it's also apparent after 16 making an agreement to go with this script and have the arbitrator recuse himself on this --17 18 on this fictitious basis, the very next day I 19 think, yeah, this is a copy of a letter that the City now sends, trying to exploit the 20 21 situation.

22 THE HEARING OFFICER: Let me 23 see --.

24 MR. GERARD: And I'll Theodore Smith - 10-1-2007

provide, yeah I'll provide.

So, it -- it now becomes clear why the City wanted to bring this out on the record, after making a deal to keep it secret. They wanted to turn around the next day and invoke a contractual provision where they could have someone fired as being mentally unfit.

So they immediately go and exploit the situation. Have him evaluated and as a result of the evaluation he was actually found fit to return to work. So, you know they didn't get anywhere with that. But, you know, this seems to be part and parcel of -- of -- of what they were attempting to do in destroying the arbitration up to this point, removing the arbitrator and then seeking to exploit the situation by getting him fired for -- for on another basis. So, you know, as an incoming attorney unable to ascertain what occurred you know off the record, in ex parte conversations in this prior proceeding with -- with -- with the work done by a -- a conflicted lawyer

7 (Pages 2021 to 2024)

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Page 2025 Page 2026 Theodore Smith - 10-1-2007 1 Theodore Smith - 10-1-2007 2 found was, that you know there was no evidence whose -- whose relationship had broken down 3 with his client, I'm not comfortable proceeding at all of any ex parte communication or any bias or any other such thing in the -- in the on this record at all. And I cited to you 5 record itself. the -- the -- the Seguoia (phonetic spelling) 6 However, the -- the -- the case. 7 THE HEARING OFFICER: requirements of due process are -- are important enough, so that if there's even Seguoia. 8 MR. GERARD: Yeah. I'm not 9 the -- the -- the appearance that something 10 great on pronouncing that. And I -- and I have 10 could be wrong, basically there's quotes in a copy, I don't have actually. I didn't have there like, you know, once -- once humpty 11 11 12 time to make extra copies. But I have -- this 12 dumpty falls off the wall, all the kings horses is the lower court ruling and then this is the and all the kings men, cannot put him back 13 13 14 ruling of the Court of Appeals, which upheld 14 together again. That's what happens when due 15 process fails. And clearly this underlying it. case is a case where due process failed. 16 And the language in there is, 16 you know, fits exactly this sort of situation. There's ex parte communications. There's 17 17 Yes, there was a different -- there was a things not on the record. There's -- there's a 18 18 different basis. It involved one of the conflicted attorney who behaves in an unethical 19 19 manner and colludes with the City and with the 20 arbitrators in a panel receiving a higher 20 21 arbitrator. 21 compensation than the others. 22 THE HEARING OFFICER: 22 And it's so defective, it's 23 Correct. 23 so tainted that I can't -- I don't think I can 24 MR. GERARD: But what they 24 rely on it at all. I don't think you can rely

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Page 2028

Theodore Smith - 10-1-2007 on it at all in -- in going forward. And in fact having even reviewed the record as you have now, I think you're in a sense tainted. You've -- you've seen a whole bunch of evidence which -- which is -- is really no good and which really shouldn't be considered at this point. And, now, you've -you've seen it all and considered it all and apparently feel that it was -- it was done okay. And that there was nothing wrong with it 11

at least that you can see on the surface of it. Well, there's a lot wrong underneath the surface. And there's a lot wrong on the surface. I mean just as an example, and, you know, this is why I don't want to -- I don't want to, I would have to relitigate this whole case. Here's a -- here's an excerpt from 4/23/07. This is from the transcript of 4/23/07. Apparently Mr. Smith's attorney had subpoenaed a -- a witness.

22 THE HEARING OFFICER: Which 23 page of the four pages, please? 24

MR. GERARD: This, well

Theodore Smith - 10-1-2007

it's -- it's.

THE HEARING OFFICER: Or all

four of them?

MR. GERARD: Yeah. It's -- I

think its, I think it was Mr. Laforgia.

THE HEARING OFFICER: Kline.

MR. GERARD: That's right,

Kline, Chancellor Kline. And these are parties who Mr. Smith had written letters of complaint to during the incident before any charges were

brought against him and -- and he was complaining about the illegal class size and

14 that sort of thing. And he subpoenaed

15 Chancellor Kline. And Chancellor Kline didn't

show up at the hearing. The City didn't --

16 didn't -- didn't have him produced. I guess 17

they told him don't come. So, the hearing

18 19 officer rules, Well, they've been served with a

20 subpoena, they have not appeared and the

21 Respondent's make an application for more time

to obtain their appearance. That application 22

23 has been opposed by the Department. And my

ruling is that the application is denied.

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Page 2030

Page 2029

1 Theodore Smith - 10-1-2007 2 We've had ample time for Respondent to bring 3 his witnesses. We're going to close the 4 hearing now, okay? Any other applications? In 5 other words, the Respondent subpoenas a 6 witness. The City tells the witness don't 7 come. And the hearing officer says, Well, okay. He's not here. You've wasted enough 8 9 time, we're going ahead. I mean, isn't the 10 obligation or shouldn't there be an inquiry as 11 to whether they should compel this witness to 12 appear? Or ask the City why he's not appearing? Or why they -- they think he 13 doesn't have to appear? No. They just don't produce him and the arbitrator says, Well, you know we don't need him. We're just going to go 16 17 ahead.

18 So, you know I'm supposed to 19 pick through this record and, you know, figure 20 out all the -- the -- the numerous things that were done wrong and then try to redo them all? 21 22 You know, I don't think it works. There's no, 23 you know, one witness or -- or one set of 24 testimony that I can think of that can cure

Theodore Smith - 10-1-2007

Theodore Smith - 10-1-2007 this record.

There's something like twelve or thirteen, you know, appearances where testimony was taken and rulings were made. So that the product that we now have is the end result of all of these types of rulings and -and the witnesses who did or didn't appear. So I'm not -- I'm not comfortable in -- in taking over this slug at this stage and trying to, you know, turn it into a silk purse. And -- and --12 and I think that the prior record is -- is a nightmare. It's -- it's just atrocious what 13 14 occurred here. I think I will have to go to the ethics committee to even get the -- to get the records for what happened. What were these settlement talks about? Where are the letters 18 to the Federal court? Where -- where are the e-mails back and forth between the attorney and the City? Where are the notes? What meetings were had? You know, we have bills -- we have 22 bills from the attorney, which don't reflect things that were done. I mean I have letters, which show when certain things were done,

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certain calls were made, certain meetings were 3 had. And yet our bills don't reflect it. So, 4 I can't even put together what occurred here. And I'm not comfortable taking it over and 6 proceeding on this record. And that's --7 that's -- that's our position. That's what I'm 8 here to place on the record. I'm not even 9 comfortable arguing, you know, summing up on 10 someone else's record that I can't obtain the 11 underlying documents for. And the guy won't 12 speak to me. 13 So, if -- if I were to go 14 along with that it -- it might well be seen as 15 acquiescing, or -- or -- or waiving my objection. I have a continuing objection. I'm 16 17 not acquiescing. I'm taking a -- a principled position here. The -- the, actually you know 18 19 your -- you're the boss. You can go ahead. 20 You can make whatever rulings you have to make, you know and -- and we'll live with them. 21 22 THE HEARING OFFICER: Ms. 23 Jalowski?

MS. JALOWSKI: Which is

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exactly what we had done during a conversation 3 where we had on the record a motion made by me 4 to continue this hearing based on the record and Mr. Edelman ruled against you. You already 5 6 objected to this. Then you decide not to come. 7 And then we're here a third time where you are 8 trying to say the same thing that there should be a new hearing. A ruling has already been 10 made by Mr. Edelman that the case is going to go forward based on you can use any new 11 12 witnesses. Do you want to subpoena Mr. -- the 13 Chancellor, then you can subpoen ahim and see 14 if you can get him here. The City never told 15 him not to show up. The Chancellor is not going to come testify at a 3020-a hearing. I 16 17 highly doubt that he's ever going to be here at a hearing. Other people have subpoenaed the 18 Chancellor. He's never shown up for a hearing. 19 20 The City does not tell him -- I didn't speak to 21 him and tell him not to come. The man is not 22 going to come to a 3020-a hearing. An attorney 23 could go through court to try to get it so ordered. And then try to do whatever other 24

9 (Pages 2029 to 2032)

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1 Theodore Smith - 10-1-2007 things they can do to compel him to testify. I 2 doubt that any court is going to compel the Chancellor to come to a 3020-a hearing, when I 4 don't even remember what the offer of proof 5 was. I think that he wanted to put in e-mails 6 7 that he sent to the Chancellor and I allowed, I 7 8 said that the e-mails could come into the 8 9 record. You have a full record here. There is 10 absolutely no reason why this case has to be 10 relitigated. There was no sandbagging. 11 11 12 Believe me, on May 10th, we were supposed to do 12 13 closing arguments. I very much wanted to do 13 closing arguments. I've been dealing with this 14 15 case since December of 2005, this case was 15 16 supposed to start. And, then, got hampered 16 17 because Mr. Smith changed attorneys three --17 18 had three different attorneys on the case. 18 19 This case was supposed to end on May 10th. And 19 20 because what happened was that Mr. Gerard made 20 21 mention that in February there were threats 21 22 made. What happened was Mr. Kearney said that 22 23 threats were made against him but he didn't 23 24 feel, fear for his safety. But what happened 24

Theodore Smith - 10-1-2007 in May was that Mr. Smith then made threats against the Arbitrator. And that's when he felt he had to say something. And that's what happened. Is that the arbitrator felt at that point that he can no longer be fair and that's why he recused himself. There are plenty of times when there are off-the-record conversations as I'm sure you're aware of Mr. Edelman that you have, I'm sure asked the client to step out of the room while you talked to the attorneys. There's absolutely nothing inappropriate with having off-the-record conversations between all the parties without the client being there.

MR. GERARD: That's why I've asked --.

THE HEARING OFFICER: Let her finish, hold on. Let her finish. Continue, Ms. Jalowski.

MS. JALOWSKI: So, with all that being said, and again also I just want to put on the record how Mr. Gerard is also, I told him that it was the court's own motion in

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1 Theodore Smith - 10-1-2007 1 2 the Federal court case for the case to be -- to 2 3 be off calendar while this case finished. 3 4 So, first of all whatever 4 5 happens in the Federal case had no bearing 5 6 whether or not Mr. Kearney wrote a motion or 6 7 didn't write a motion in staying the 7 8 proceedings has absolutely nothing to do with 8 9 this 3020-a case. What we're trying to do is 9 10 get a decision whether or not Mr. Smith was 10 11 incompetent, insubordinate and excessively 11 12 absent. That is all that we are trying to do 12 13 here. And it is Mr. Smith who has tried to 13 14 thwart this at every level. So, again, the 14 15 Department strenuously asks that this case 15 16 continue on the record and that it just be set 16 17 down for closing arguments. I have two cases, 17 18 this is the case of David Randall where the 18 19 Judge had to recuse herself and the case was 19 decided by an arbitrator just based on the 20 20 21 record. I also have the case of Michael 21 22 Campbell, which was the case that was appealed. 22 And, also, it was just sent back to a new 23

24 arbitrator for -- for them to make a decision

Theodore Smith - 10-1-2007 on the record.

THE HEARING OFFICER: Do you

have copies of them here?

MS. JALOWSKI: I thought I

did. I'll -- I'll make them.

MR. GERARD: Well, I'll just

take the cites. It doesn't matter.

MS. JALOWSKI: It's not

cites -- one's not a cite, it's a --.

THE HEARING OFFICER: Well,

take a look at my copy. And we're going to take a break so we can actually review them,

Ms. Jalowski.

MS. JALOWSKI: Well, that's just the, I mean the decision isn't really what's important. Although I do have a case here. Michael Campbell I have a copy too, but I just don't have that cover page with me.

THE HEARING OFFICER: In the Randall matter, does the new hearing officer deal with the issue of the prior record or is it just the decision?

MS. JALOWSKI: No. It was

10 (Pages 2033 to 2036)

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Page 2037

1 Theodore Smith - 10-1-2007 2 just that that's what happened in that case 3 where, I'm just showing you that there was a case that was done here that literally the 4 5 record was closed and a different hearing 6 officer actually did the decision because of the hearing officer. 7 8 MR. GERARD: And I want --. 9 THE HEARING OFFICER: But 10 this decision is not, when I say not helpful, I 11 mean I accept your representation of the 12 hearing officer who decided the case based on 12 the record before the prior hearing officer. 13 14 But, the new hearing officer as I understand it, did not make a specific ruling that she felt that it was properly --. 16 MS. JALOWSKI: No, there's 17 18 nothing like that. 19 MR. GERARD: And it wasn't 20 appealed. It wasn't article seventy-eighted. 21 It wasn't seventy-fived. 22 MS. JALOWSKI: So, anyway, 23 though. What we have here also is even the --23 24 the case still went to decision. Let this case

Theodore Smith - 10-1-2007 finish. Then you have a remedy. You have the standing objection that you think it should be a whole new trial. Let this case be decided by Mr. Edelman and then go to -- go to Supreme Court and appeal what the decision that happened. But for this not to go forward is ridiculous at this point. It needs -- this case needs to come to a conclusion.

THE HEARING OFFICER: Any further comments, Mr. Gerard that you haven't said before?

MR. GERARD: All right. Well, you know, I mean I think based on the history of this, you know essentially misconduct, that this -- this case should be dismissed. It's -- it's irretrievably tainted. And I think it was only brought to obtain an advantage in the -- in the Federal action to -- to provide a defense in the Federal action. It's a self-serving case and they -- they've used it to whatever advantage they think they can gain in the Federal action. I think that's clear. And

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I -- and I think that's what I'm going to argue
    in the Federal action. That, you know, this --
    this -- this is just another example of the
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    City's retaliation and attempts to, you know,
    deprive my client of his rights in this matter.
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    I understand you're pretty familiar with these
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    issues?
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                THE HEARING OFFICER: I am.
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               MR. GERARD: You've -- you've
    heard us. The only further thing I will say is
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    that Ms. Jalowski may not be aware of the
    chronology of this but it's very clear that the
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    alleged threats against the arbitrator that Mr.
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    Kearney was reporting on May 10th, or May 8th
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    and 9th, et cetera, were the ones that occurred
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    allegedly in his conversations in February or
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    March. I have --.
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               THE HEARING OFFICER: Do you
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    mean conversations between Mr. Smith and Mr.
21
    Kearney?
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               MR. GERARD: That's right.
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    That's right. They were arguing over the --
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the -- the proceedings and Mr. Kearney's

Theodore Smith - 10-1-2007

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Theodore Smith - 10-1-2007 tactics and what he had done in the case and what he hadn't done. There was some dispute over obtaining some medical records and they -they had an argument over that. And it's, that argument in February or March that -- that -that Mr. Kearney claims Ted Smith made threats against him and against the arbitrator.

And you can see for the next two months there's no mention of any of this in these e-mails. There's just attempts to get Mr. Smith to, you know, enter this agreement which talks all about -- it talks about everything except what happens to the fees.

And I -- I know personally that, you know, making a deal for paying attorney's fees in a Federal case is a legitimate part of the settlement process.

You're -- you're entitled, prevailing party is entitled to counsel fees in a Federal case. So, when you -- when you negotiate and I've done it, you know, in inmate cases. When you negotiate a settlement of the case, you negotiate your fees. They tell you

11 (Pages 2037 to 2040)

Page 2041 Page 2042 1 Theodore Smith - 10-1-2007 1 Theodore Smith - 10-1-2007 2 2 between the arbitrator leading up to the send in your bill. 3 MS. JALOWSKI: Mr. Gerard. 3 conference between the arbitrator and the 4 I --. 4 attorneys that Mr. Smith was not privy to where 5 Mr. Kearney apparently knew what the script THE HEARING OFFICER: Let him 5 6 was, was in on arranging for this script and finish. 6 7 7 then, read the transcript. They attempt to go MR. GERARD: And so, you know I -- I suspect that that may be, you know, an 8 through with it. 8 9 important factor in this dispute. And, 9 And the only reason it 10 clearly, the -- the alleged conversations 10 doesn't work is because the City double crosses 11 occurred you know some two months before this him and decides to insist that the real reason 11 12 May 10th conference and it was only when the 12 come out on the record. And I -- I, it's relationship broke down completely that Mr. 13 13 interesting that Ms. Jalowski apparently 14 Kearney then threatened to come forward with 14 handled the case all the way up to that time, these matters. And then brought them up to the 15 but apparently at that one conference her City and then brought them up to the superior is there pulling the strings and 16 16 17 arbitrator. reneging on the deal. And that's when it comes 17 out. So that's the history of the matter. 18 And there's -- there's even a 18 19 That's the history, at least the history that I series of e-mails in the two or three days 19 20 before the 10th that I have, because I got them 20 know having not, you know, been there. And I from Smith, which -- in which Mr. Kearney is haven't heard anything really from Ms. Jalowski 21 21 22 telling him, the arbitrator is recusing 22 to -- to -- to correct any of that. The only 23 himself. This is what you've done by sending 23 thing she said is incorrect about -- about the 24 your letter. So, there was clearly discussions 24 timing of these alleged threats. So, I haven't Page 2043 Page 2044 1 Theodore Smith - 10-1-2007 1 Theodore Smith - 10-1-2007 2 happened. Again, I can only stress, this case heard anything that really addresses this at 3 all. 3 was on for closing arguments when this 4 happened. Believe me, the last thing I needed MS. JALOWSKI: Mr. Gerard --. 4 5 was what happened that Mr. Tilman had to recuse MR. GERARD: She was a 5 6 personal participant in it. And I haven't 6 himself. We were almost done with the case. I 7 heard a word here. I mean if this thing went 7 would have had a decision as of June. The 8 forward, she'd probably have to be called as a 8 discussion settlement, all they were were that 9 witness so we could figure out who said what 9 Mr. Smith would have, I think it was a and what happened at these things. Is that 10 10 three-month suspension or some sort of fine. 11 what you want? Do you want to get another 11 The discussions were not even 12 attorney and we can call you as a witness? 12 that he be terminated or resignation. Mr. THE HEARING OFFICER: Final 13 13 Edelman, you have been doing this for many 14 comment, and then I want your cross. 14 years you are very familiar that that is more 15 MS. JALOWSKI: Final comment than a fair settlement in an incompetence case 15 to have a three-month suspension. And I don't 16 is, Mr. Gerard has a lot of suspicions and 16 17 suspects which all are really wrong. There was believe we were even asking for him to take any 17 never any discussion of attorney's fees being courses which, you know, that's also usually 18 18 19 paid to Mr. Kearney's firm as part of any 19 with a suspension we have them take courses.

So there was no underlying

And what happened on May

factor or deals that were never anything that

normally happen during a 3020-a proceeding.

10th, the reason why Ms. Europe was on the

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settlement ever. The Department never would

for the breakdown that Mr. Gerard is saying

is -- is a fallacy. Because that never

So, one that whole big reason

agree to pay attorney's fees.

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Page 2045

1 Theodore Smith - 10-1-2007 phone was because I got stuck on a train. And 3 Mr. Tillem called to see that, why wasn't I on the conference call and the reason why 4 5 originally it was agreed to put something else on the record about why the recusal was was 6 7 because Mr. Tillem thought that if Mr. Smith 8 was in the room with Mr. Kearney that he was 9 afraid that something violent might happen. 10 So he took a lesser stance of 11 what the reason was and then Ms. Europe was not 12 happy with that and she felt that it needed to be all the real reason and that is what you see 14 in the transcript. And that is what happened. 15 Nobody was trying to do 16 anything unethical. Mr. Tillem was recusing himself that day. We weren't going forward 17 with the closing, so in effect really it didn't 18 19 matter in the four corners of the transcript of 20 what, you know, what happened was the facts was the same. A recusal was going to happen and 21 22 then that's what leads us to here. And when 23 the recusal happened a new arbitrator was

Theodore Smith - 10-1-2007 planning on which asking -- making a motion for it to be done on the papers and obviously you made your argument against it even Mr. Smith's had made the argument before he hired you. And then we say, well it's not right for Mr. Smith to make the argument since he's not an attorney. He got an attorney, you made your argument. It was denied. And, now, we're sitting here for the third time you're making this argument. So, again, the Department asks that you decide this on the record. I was at the hearing, you can see by the transcripts again, Mr. Edelman you've been doing this for a number of years. This looks like any other transcript. The cross examinations were more than competent. The case presented was more than competent. This case needs to end. THE HEARING OFFICER: All

right. Let me give you these rulings. First, I will affirm, actually I guess reaffirm my prior ruling with respect to this matter. And the reasons are not only because this is the third time, but even after hearing Mr. Gerard

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Theodore Smith - 10-1-2007 again, first in writing and now orally, I see no basis to grant a de novo hearing. And that's for the following reasons. As I said, I have reviewed

appointed and then I went forward as I was

the transcript and I have read the transcript and I really candidly can find no taint within the transcript that would have so prejudiced Mr. Smith's rights for me to conclude that the transcript itself is prejudicial or fatally defective in any due process or context. Mr. Smith may have absolutely legitimate issues with his prior counsel. The may relate to fees. They may relate to other issues. I don't know. And, it's clearly not my role to intercede in that matter -- in that matter in any way. However, Mr. Kearney called on his

16 17 18 behalf -- on Mr. Smith's behalf. He cross 19 examined witnesses. He did so vigorously and

20 perhaps most important, Mr. Tillem made 21 rulings. I can't give you every ruling that he

22 made, but I do not find an overall taint in the

23 record so that Mr. Tillem's rulings would be 24

considered somehow prejudicial to Mr. Smith's

Theodore Smith - 10-1-2007 interest.

In fact it's interesting to note and I'll get into two or three specifics in a second. It's interesting to note that the alleged threats against Mr. Tillem did -- from everything we know, did not surface until sometime in May of '07. By then the hearing had been concluded with respect to merits. If my memory serves, the last hearing date on the merits was April 23rd, 2007. So that, excuse me, if anything Mr. Tillem was making rulings up until April 2007, at least so far as this record indicates without any knowledge of alleged threats by Mr. Smith.

With respect to Mr. Tillem's ruling on May 10th, 2007, that with respect to subpoenas issued to Chancellor Kline and I believe the regional superintendent or local instructional superintendent name changed, Mr. Heany, he, Mr. Tillem, ruled that this hearing should go forward without their subpoena -- or without their presence.

As I indicated to Mr. Gerard

13 (Pages 2045 to 2048)

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Page 2049 1 Theodore Smith - 10-1-2007 1 Theodore Smith - 10-1-2007 2 and Ms. Jalowski. And Mr. Gerard believes 2 3 that -- that Mr. Heany and Chancellor Kline can 3 4 offer probative testimony, he has the right to 4 subpoena them and I'm going to give him relief 5 5 6 to subpoen athem now, if he wants. And if he 6 7 7 can -- and if he can obtain their appearance by 8 appropriate judicial process, then he can do so 8 9 and I'll listen to them. Which leads to the 9 10 next point. I am not, contrary to Ms. 10 11 Jalowski's objection, I am not closing the and render a determination absent -- and this I 11 12 record as of this particular moment. As much 12 want to make clear, absent a judicial stay of 13 as Ms. Jalowski would like me to do so. I am, 13 these proceedings. have and will afford Mr. Gerard the opportunity 14 15 not to redo the record because I don't think 15 16 the record's tainted, but to offer any 16 17 additional testimony, any additional evidence 17 whether testimony document in support of Mr. 18 18 19 Smith's case. 19 20 So, that in fact additional 20 21 witnesses may be brought forward, and even Mr. 21 22 Smith may be brought forward again. That would 22 23 be fine on matters not covered by -- by this 23 24 record. 24

Finally, my role is that of a hearing officer. My role is to supervise and manage this process. Questions of attorney/client privilege, questions of Federal litigation, they really are just beyond my -the scope of my duties in this matter. And as hearing officer, my obligation is to go forward with this proceeding, continue hearings if necessary, take closing arguments if necessary

If Mr. Gerard believes that going forward is fatally -- that I cannot go forward on this record, he has the right to seek a stay in a Federal court. If a Federal court brings a stay in these proceedings, I'm done. I can't do anything. But absent that stay I must proceed. Off the record for a second, Christina.

(Off the record) THE HEARING OFFICER: Mr. Gerard, that leaves the ball in your court in

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            Theodore Smith - 10-1-2007
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    this way. Anticipating the closing argument
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    and I'll even grant leave that they not be
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    today, if that's your -- your desire.
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               You can indicate to me that
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    you intend to ask for a day of hearing to
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    present additional witnesses and/or Mr. Smith,
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    or you can indicate that you don't want to, you
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    don't want to participate in this proceeding at
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    all and allow Ms. Jalowski simply to make her
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    closing argument. What's your preference, sir?
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               MR. GERARD: I'll take option
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    three. I don't want to participate in this
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    proceeding any further and I'll allow Ms.
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    Jalowski to make a closing argument.
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               THE HEARING OFFICER: Ms.
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    Jalowski, you may proceed. Do you want a few
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    minutes?
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               MS. JALOWSKI: Please.
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               THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay.
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    Off the record. Christina let's take a few
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    minutes. Thanks.
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               (Off the record)
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               THE HEARING OFFICER: On the
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Page 2052 Theodore Smith - 10-1-2007 record. As previously indicated, Mr. Gerard has declined to, on behalf of Mr. Smith certainly declined to participate in this proceeding as I previously indicated I've afforded Ms. Jalowski the opportunity to make a closing argument. You may begin ma'am. CLOSING ARGUMENT

MS. JALOWSKI: All right. The Department submits that they have proved by

a preponderance of evidence that Mr. Smith during the 2004-2005 school year was insubordinate, incompetent, rendered inefficient service and was excessively absent and neglected his duty.

During this 2004-2005 school year, Mr. Smith -- in the summer of 2004 Mr. Smith interviews with Principal Lindley Uehling for the position as a gym teacher. This school, the City Museum School, is an unusual school. It's a school within a larger school.

She told Mr. Smith that this is a middle school, that he would be teaching the entire school. So, there was going to be

14 (Pages 2049 to 2052)

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1 Closing - Jalowski 2 large classes especially because they also had 3 to share the gym with the high school that was 4 also housed in the same building. She told Mr. 5 Smith that, you know, was he okay with the 6 large classes. You know that there would be an 7 assistant but it would not be a gym teacher. 8 It would be another teacher who would be 9 assisting him. Mr. Smith then does take the 10 job because he thought that it would lead to an 11 opportunity to possibly be an administrator. 12 So then what ends up happening? Mr. Smith has 12 13 never taught gym in large groups. This is 14 classes of over fifty or more by contract. If 15 the class is over fifty you need to have an assistant with you. The assistant does not 16 17 have to be a licensed gym teacher, they only need to be a licensed assistant. So, on the 18 19 days that he did have classes that were bigger 20 than fifty he was provided with an assistant.

But unfortunately what happens is, is that Mr.

another licensed gym teacher. So the classes

22 Smith is not used to teaching this way. He's

used to teaching only large classes with

Closing - Jalowski end up out of control.

He doesn't have a way to take attendance. His ways of teaching these large classes, it ends up being chaos. Mr. Smith starts being observed, the observances don't go well. He becomes basically what I would just call, with a petulant attitude. In his mind, this is illegal. They're violating the contract. So he, literally what he sort of did was sort of like crossed his arms and sulked and didn't teach his gym classes because his own decision that his contract rights have been violated.

Unfortunately as we all know that's not what you do. You make the best of the situation. You continue to be a competent teacher and you grieve. But not Mr. Smith. So, this leaves us with him not getting a substitute teacher for a number of days, which leads to --.

THE HEARING OFFICER: I don't understand that comment. Not getting a substitute teacher, that Mr. Smith didn't

Page 2055

Closing - Jalowski secure a substitute for himself?

3 MS. JALOWSKI: Yes. 4

THE HEARING OFFICER: Or that

5 no assistant, as a substitute was.

> MS. JALOWSKI: I'm sorry, that was -- that was, the rule at the City

school was that if you were going to be out

that you were supposed to arrange for a

10 substitute. And Mr. Smith was told to arrange for a substitutes and was given Susan Schron's 11

12 phone number to call and other people. And on

13 a number of days he didn't do that. Again, you

have the -- you read Ms. Uehling's testimony, 14

15 you'll see the evidence. I'm not going to go 16 through every specification one-by-one. It is

17 all there in the testimony about how he just

could not control his classes. Didn't address 18

19 students who were suited up for class, would be

20 on the phone during instructional time. And 21 all sorts of different incompetence.

22 Mr. Smith again, contended 23 that it was because he didn't have, you know

that he should have had another licensed gym

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Closing - Jalowski

what's called S status.

teacher. He was told that that was impossible. There is testimony from Susan Schron who had been the gym teacher the previous year, but she had only worked, she only wanted to work part time, she's a retired gym teacher and was on

So, they wanted a gym teacher there full time, so she didn't -- so that's why Ted Smith comes in 2004-2005. She testified that she had the same classes that Mr. Smith had and she had absolutely no problem with being able to teach a viable lesson of gym when she substituted for Mr. Smith. She also testified that she would actually be in the building for other reasons and she would see Mr. Smith's class and see what a disaster it was.

You also heard, there was also testimony from Shanti Kantha, who was one of the teachers who was assigned to assist Mr. Smith during his gym class. And she will also tell you -- she also told how chaotic the situation was when Mr. Smith was teaching the

Page 2057 Page 2058 1 Closing - Jalowski 1 Closing - Jalowski 2 classes and how when Ms. Schron was there, this was fibrillaly related. That he had 3 there were no problems with these classes. 3 fibrillation. You read testimony of his own 4 You also have specifications 4 doctor who said that usually fibrillation 5 5 doesn't isn't really caused by stress. You dealing with Mr. Smith's interaction with 6 Victor Ramsey who was the local instructional don't know when it's going to happen. So, this 7 7 is not a FEMLA issue. He even said if he superintendent, how Mr. Ramsey tried to help 8 does -- was feeling it, he just needs to sit Mr. Smith, tried to show him how to handle 8 9 down. He doesn't need to leave, and you also large classes and then how Mr. Smith ended up 10 10 disrespecting him because again, he wasn't see -- and you also see from the evidence 11 getting what he wanted. He wanted either 11 presented that even some of these absences were 12 another licensed gym teacher, Mr. Smith did in 12 to go to doctor's appointments, not for this 13 the classroom, or to have smaller classes. all of a sudden emergency palpitation of his 13 14 Unfortunately it was not 14 heart that he seemed to have whenever he just 15 possible. But again, Mr. Smith didn't take the really wanted to leave the building and just situation and try to make the best of it. He use as an excuse. So, I would submit that it 16 16 made it worse. And, then, vou'll -- vou'll see is not -- FEMLA was not shown that this was a 17 17 the specifications where he missed meetings 18 18 serious illness as intended by FEMLA. So 19 with Mr. Ramsey. Said to Mr. Ramsey, get off again, the Department in this case is after 19 termination. And that is because Mr. Smith is 20 my back, leave me alone. Again -- and then the 20 last thing that we have besides the not remediable. He thinks that he -- it should 21 21 22 incompetence and the insubordination is 22 be his way and that's not how a school works. 23 excessive absences and excessive latenesses. 23 A school works by having to be -- to listen to 24 Mr. Smith tried to say that 24 the authority figures and do your job as you're Page 2059 Page 2060 1 1 Closing - Jalowski Theodore Smith - 10-1-2007 2 2 told to do it. And Mr. Smith has not, this MR. GERARD: Thank you Judge. 3 record does not show that Mr. Smith is that 3 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank 4 type of guy. This record shows that Mr. Smith, 4 you. if he doesn't like the situation he's in, he's 5 5 (The hearing concluded) 6 just not going to teach a viable gym class. 6 7 So, therefore again, we are asking for 7 8 termination. 8 9 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank 9 10 you. Christina? 10 11 THE REPORTER: Yes. 11 12 THE HEARING OFFICER: This is 12 13 the last hearing in this matter, so can you do 13 14 it expedited? 14 15 15 THE REPORTER: Okay. 16 THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. 16 17 Back on, Christina. 17 18 THE REPORTER: Okay. You're 18 19 all set. 19 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank 20 20 21 you. I will close the record upon my receipt 21 of the transcript and I will issue a timely 22 22 23 award. Thank you all. 23 24 MS. JALOWSKI: Thank you. 24

Theodore Smith - 10-1-2007

I, Christina Lynch, do hereby certify that the foregoing was reported by me, in the cause, at

the time and place, and in the presence of counsel, as stated in the caption hereto, at

typewritten transcription, consisting of pages

prepared under my supervision and is a true record of all proceedings had at the hearing.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have

hereunto subscribed my name, this the 4th day

number 2000 through 2060, inclusive, was

Page 2000 hereof; that the foregoing

STATE OF NEW YORK

of October, 2007.

Christina Lynch, Reporter

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