Pennsylvania Labor Relations Board

FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE, LODGE NO. 5	:	
v.	:	Case No. PF-C-06-71-E
CITY OF PHILADELPHIA	:	

PROPOSED DECISION AND ORDER

A charge of unfair labor practices was filed with the Pennsylvania Labor Relations Board (Board) by the Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge No. 5 (Union) on May 8, 2006, alleging that the City of Philadelphia (City) violated Section 6(1)(a) and (e) of the Pennsylvania Labor Relations Act (PLRA) as read with Act 111.

On May 25, 2006, the Secretary of the Board issued a complaint and notice of hearing wherein a hearing was set for July 13, 2006, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Because of granted continuance requests, the hearing was actually held on April 24, 2009, at which time both parties in interest were afforded a full opportunity to present testimony, cross-examine witnesses and introduce documentary evidence. In lieu of *viva voce* evidence, the parties entered into a series of factual stipulations. Neither party filed a post-hearing brief.

The Examiner, on the basis of the stipulations and exhibits presented at the hearing and from all other matters and documents of record makes the following:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The parties stipulated and agreed the Union is a labor organization. (N.T. 7).

2. The parties stipulated and agreed the City is a political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. (N.T. 7).

3. The parties stipulated and agreed that Arbitrator Lewis R. Amis, on March 27, 2006, issued an arbitration award pursuant to a grievance filed by the Union on behalf of Officer Lamar Poole, an employe suspended for one day. That arbitration award ordered the City to reduce Poole's suspension to a reprimand. (N.T. 7).

4. The City did not comply with the arbitration award till June 20, 2006. (N.T. 7).

DISCUSSION

It has long been established that the failure to comply with the terms of a grievance arbitration award occurs only after exhaustion of appellate rights and the expiration of a reasonable or expressly provided time period for compliance. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, 8 PPER ¶ 233 (Nisi Decision and Order, 1977). To determine whether a particular lapse of time is a reasonable period for compliance with an arbitration award, the Board will consider such factors as: 1) The nature and complexity of the compliance required under the award, 2) The length of time before compliance occurred, 3) The employer's ability to comply with the award including legitimate obstacles to compliance, 4) Steps taken by the employer toward compliance and 5) The employer's explanation or lack thereof for the delay. City of Philadelphia, 19 PPER ¶ 19069 at 185 (Final Order, 1988); Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (Department of Community Affairs), 19 PPER ¶ 19165 (Proposed Decision and Order, 1998); Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (Office of Administration), 17 PPER ¶ 17151 (Proposed Decision and Order, 1986).

The arbitration award here was issued on March 27, 2006, and the City did not comply till June 20, 2006. Such a delay is unreasonable, given the relative simplicity of the award. City of Philadelphia, 27 PPER ¶ 27093 (Proposed Decision and Order, 1996), 27 PPER ¶ 27202 (Final Order, 1996)(delay of five months in paying a simple arbitration award is an unfair labor practice)

The City has violated Section (6)(1) (a) and (e) of the PLRA as read with Act 111. By way of remedy, the City is ordered to pay Poole 6% *per annum* interest on the amount paid pursuant to the arbitration award, from the date of the award until June 20, 2006.

CONCLUSIONS

The Hearing Examiner, therefore, after due consideration of the foregoing and the record as a whole, concludes and finds:

1. The City is an employer within the meaning of Section 3(c) of the PLRA, as read with Act 111.

2. The Union is a labor organization within the meaning of Section 3(f) of the PLRA.

3. The Board has jurisdiction over the parties hereto.

4. The City has committed unfair labor practices within the meaning of Section 6(1)(a) and (e) of the PLRA as read with Act 111.

ORDER

In view of the foregoing and in order to effectuate the policies of the PLRA and Act 111, the Hearing Examiner

HEREBY ORDERS AND DIRECTS

that the City shall:

1. Cease and desist from interfering with, restraining or coercing employes in the exercise of the rights guaranteed in the PLRA and Act 111.

2. Cease and desist from refusing to collectively bargain with the representatives of its employes.

3. Take the following affirmative action:

(a) Immediately tender to Poole 6% *per annum* interest on moneys paid pursuant to the arbitration award, calculated from March 27, 2006, until June 20, 2006;

(b) Post a copy of this decision and order within five (5) days from the effective date hereof in a conspicuous place readily accessible to its employes, and have the same remain so posted for a period of ten (10) consecutive days; and

(c) Furnish to the Board within twenty (20) days of the date hereof, satisfactory evidence of compliance with this decision and order by completion and filing of the attached affidavit of compliance.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED AND DIRECTED

that in the absence of any exceptions filed with the Board pursuant to 34 Pa. Code § 95.98(a) within twenty days of the date hereof, this order shall be final.

SIGNED, DATED AND MAILED at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, this twenty-first day of September, 2009.

PENNSYLVANIA LABOR RELATIONS BOARD

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Timothy Tietze, Hearing Examiner

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
Pennsylvania Labor Relations Board

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AFFIDAVIT OF COMPLIANCE

The City of Philadelphia hereby certifies that it has ceased and desisted from its violation of Section 6(1)(a) and (e) of the Pennsylvania Labor Relations Act and Act 111; that it has paid Poole 6% *per annum* interest on the amount paid pursuant to the March 27, 2006, award, calculated from that date, until June 20, 2006; that it has posted a copy of the proposed decision and order as directed therein; and that it has served an executed copy of this affidavit on the Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge No. 5 at its principal place of business.

_____
Signature/Date

_____
Title

SWORN AND SUBSCRIBED TO before me
the day and year first aforesaid.

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Signature of Notary Public