

SBCERS

Santa Barbara County Employees' Retirement System

DATE: January 24, 2024

Consent Item #1.5

TO: SBCERS BOARD OF RETIREMENT

FROM: Katrina Peña, Disability Retirement Analyst

RE: **Elizabeth Wilson, Applicant for Disability Retirement**

Recommendation

Grant Referee Catherine Harris's request for extension of her jurisdiction to March 18, 2024, to accommodate an agreed upon hearing of March 18, 2024.

Attachments

(1) Request from Referee Harris

Catherine Harris, Esq.

Arbitrator • Mediator
disputeresolutions@att.net

January 11, 2024

Board of Retirement
Santa Barbara County Employees' Retirement System
130 Robin Hill Road Suite 100
Goleta, CA 93105

VIA E-MAIL ONLY

Re: Application of Elizabeth Wilson

Honorable Board Members:

I am writing to request an extension of my jurisdiction in the above-referenced disability retirement matter.

Per the terms of the Board's referral letter dated November 13, 2023, the hearing was to be concluded by March 5, 2024. During an initial Zoom conference on November 28, 2023, Applicant was given additional time, i.e., until December 15, 2023, to continue her ongoing search for legal representation. At that time It was agreed that, in the event that Applicant was unable to secure legal representation, the pre-hearing conference would resume on December 19, 2023.

When Applicant did not identify a legal representative and no representative entered an appearance on her behalf, the pre-hearing conference went forward on December 19. On the morning of the scheduled conference, Applicant informed the hearing officer that she was unable to proceed due to illness [REDACTED]. As a result of Applicant's illness, the pre-hearing conference was postponed until January 11.

By the time of the January 11 conference, the hearing officer had no available hearing dates that conform to the Board's instructions, as set forth in the referral letter. Under these circumstances, I am now requesting that the Board grant my request for an extension of jurisdiction that will permit the hearing to be conducted on March 18, 2024. This proposed hearing date is agreeable to System counsel, the Retirement Office, Applicant, and the hearing officer.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,
Catherine Harris,, Esq.

By: 

CATHERINE HARRIS, Hearing Officer

cc: Elizabeth Wilson
cc: Patrick McCarthy
cc: Katrina Pena

CH/rc

