

EXHIBIT 17

October 11, 2017

RE: Resignation

Dear Commissioner Jackson and Deputy Commissioner Westby:

It is with great regret that I submit my retirement papers effective January 5, 2018.

Due to recent events where I looked to management for assistance with a toxic work environment and instead became the target of retaliation. It has become increasingly impossible to lead the division without some sort of complaint being filed against me. It has become a hostile work environment that I am mentally and physically unable to endure any longer. I doubt, in the history of the Department of Labor, that any male Director has been questioned regarding who he ate lunch, who he socialized with after hours, or if he yelled at someone after they were repeatedly advised to stop an activity which was against every written policy. Such questions have no relevance to the position. I feel that investigation in itself was handled inappropriately and thus created more issues within the Division.

I have taken great pride in the work that I have done in my almost 28 years with the Department of Labor. During my year as Director, I raised collections 23%, increased productivity, reduced expenses, and enforced new and existing policies/procedures, held workers accountable and cultivated strong relationships with various organizations outside the agency. I have no doubt in my mind that strictly enforcing policies/procedures and holding workers accountable was the trigger for the complaint filed against me with the union. It is unfortunate that it is my credibility and reputation that is now in question.

I thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as Director of the Wage and Workplace Standards Division. I did so proudly and will truly miss working with my colleagues towards the Departments mission.

Very Truly Yours,

Rosa Spaziani