

BEFORE THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

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JOHN PETERSON,

Charging Party,

-v-

STUMP TOWN ART STUDIO,

Respondent.

Case #0083013035

ORDER

John Peterson (Peterson) filed a complaint with the Department of Labor and Industry (Department) alleging that Stump Town Art Studio (Stump Town) discriminated against him on the basis of race when his membership was terminated. Following an informal investigation, the Department determined that a preponderance of the evidence did not support Peterson's allegations of unlawful discrimination. The Department issued a Notice of Dismissal. Peterson filed an objection with the Montana Human Rights Commission (Commission). The Commission considered the matter on March 17, 2009.

The Commission reviews a decision of the Department to dismiss a complaint using an abuse of discretion standard. *Section 49-2-511(2), MCA*. After careful consideration, the Commission concludes the determination of the Department to dismiss the complaint in this case is not an abuse of discretion.

If a charging party chooses to commence a civil action in district court, the charging party has 90 days after the date this order is issued to petition a district court, in the district where the alleged violation occurred, for the appropriate relief. *Section 49-2-511(3)(a), MCA*. If a charging party fails to commence a civil action within 90 days, the claim is time barred. *Id.*

Alternatively, a party may ask a district court to review the decision of the Commission to affirm the dismissal of a complaint. *Section 49-2-511(3)(b), MCA; Mont. Code Ann. § 2-4-702.* This review must be requested within 30 days after the date this order is issued.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that John Peterson's objections are **overruled**. The Commission affirms the determination of the Human Rights Bureau to dismiss the complaint against Stump Town Art Studio.

DATED this \_\_\_\_ day of March, 2009.

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Chair Ryan C. Rusche  
Human Rights Commission

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned secretary for the Human Rights Commission certifies that a true and correct copy of the foregoing ORDER was mailed to the following by U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of March, 2009.

JOHN PETERSON  
PO BOX 9585  
KALISPELL MT 59904

MELANIE DROWN  
STUMP TOWN ARTS STUDIO  
PO BOX 4938  
WHITEFISH MT 59937

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Montana Human Rights Bureau