

# Ex-city employee given her job back

By **Sandy Hodson** | *Staff Writer*

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A former city employee who was swept up in the computer hard drive dispute has gotten her job back.

Lisa Williams returned to work Monday after a decision last week by the Augusta Richmond County Personnel Board to reinstate her.

Ms. Williams was fired in the spring for using her work computer for personal business for about an hour two years ago, according to her attorney, Robert A. Mullins.

The incident was discovered after Augusta Commissioner Calvin Holland requested to see Ms. Williams' computer hard drive and that of City Administrator Fred Russell.

His request came after the investigation of former assistant in-house attorney Vanessa Flournoy and her use of the city's computer to do real estate closings.

Ms. Williams was working as a secretary in the law department at the time.

Mr. Mullins said Monday that Ms. Williams was treated unfairly in an attempt to justify Ms. Flournoy's behavior.

Ms. Williams wasn't warned or disciplined before her termination.

The hard drive fracas boiled over with the firing of the city's in-house attorney, Eugene Jessup, after just a few months on the job. He requested an investigation of Ms. Flournoy.

Mr. Holland was censured by fellow commissioners for directing a city employee to obtain Mr. Russell's hard drive.

The sheriff was called in to investigate Commissioner Marion Williams, who claimed that he possessed a copy of Mr. Russell's hard drive.

He later said that claim was false.

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