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**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
EASTERN DIVISION**

VICKI HAYES,)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	
v.)	No. 17 C 237
)	
CAROLYN COLVIN,)	
)	
Defendant.)	

MEMORANDUM OPINION

SAMUEL DER-YEGHIAYAN, District Judge

This matter is before the court on Plaintiff Vicki Hayes’ (Hayes) motion for summary judgment and Defendant Social Security Administration’s (SSA) motion for summary judgment. For the reasons stated below, SSA’s motion is denied, Hayes’ motion is granted in part, and this matter is remanded to SSA for further proceedings consistent with this opinion.

BACKGROUND

In 2014, Hayes applied for Disability Insurance Benefits, and in 2015 she applied for Supplemental Security Income. On July 25, 2016, after a hearing (Hearing) before an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ), a decision was entered against Hayes. On November 16, 2016, the Appeals Council denied a request for review,

and on January 12, 2017, Hayes filed the instant appeal. Hayes has filed a motion for summary judgment, seeking to have the ALJ's decision reversed and remanded for an award of benefits, and seeking in the alternative to have this case remanded to the ALJ for further proceedings to correct errors made by the ALJ. SSA has filed a motion for summary judgment seeking to have the ALJ's decision affirmed.

LEGAL STANDARD

Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §405(g), a party can seek judicial review of administrative decisions made under the Social Security Act. When an ALJ's decision is deemed to be "the final action of the Social Security Administration, the reviewing district court examines the ALJ's decision to determine whether substantial evidence supports it and whether the ALJ applied the proper legal criteria." *Allord v. Astrue*, 631 F.3d 411, 415 (7th Cir. 2011).

DISCUSSION

An ALJ examines a claim of disability under a five-step process. *Craft v. Astrue*, 539 F.3d 668, 673-74 (7th Cir. 2008). In step one, the ALJ "considers whether the applicant is engaging in substantial gainful activity." *Id.* In step two, the ALJ "evaluates whether an alleged physical or mental impairment is severe, medically determinable, and meets a durational requirement." *Id.* In step three, the ALJ "compares the impairment to a list of impairments that are considered