

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

MELISSA A. WALKER,

Plaintiff,

v.

16-CV-752
ORDER

NANCY A. BERRYHILL, Acting
Commissioner of Social Security,

Defendant.

On September 19, 2016, the plaintiffs commenced this action. Docket Item 1. On January 19, 2017, this Court referred this case to United States Magistrate Judge Hugh B. Scott for all proceedings under 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(A) and (B). Docket Item 7. On April 19, 2017, the plaintiff moved for judgment on the pleadings or, in the alternative, to remand for further proceedings, Docket Item 13; on August 31, 2017, the defendant responded and moved for judgment on the pleadings, Docket Item 16; and on September 21, 2017, the plaintiff replied, Docket Item 17. On January 4, 2018, Judge Scott issued a Report and Recommendation finding that the plaintiff's motion should be granted and that the defendant's motion should be denied. Docket Item 18. The parties did not object to the Report and Recommendation, and the time to do so now has expired. See 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1); Fed. R. Civ. P. 72(b)(2).

A district court may accept, reject, or modify the findings or recommendations of a magistrate judge. 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1); Fed. R. Civ. P. 72(b)(3). A district court must conduct a de novo review of those portions of a magistrate judge's recommendation to which objection is made. 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1);

Fed. R. Civ. P. 72(b)(3). But neither 28 U.S.C. § 636 nor Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 72 requires a district court to review the recommendation of a magistrate judge to which no objections are raised. See *Thomas v. Arn*, 474 U.S. 140, 149-50 (1985).

Although not required to do so in light of the above, this Court nevertheless has reviewed Judge Scott's Report and Recommendation as well as the parties' submissions to him. Based on that review and the absence of any objections, the Court accepts and adopts Judge Scott's recommendation to grant the plaintiff's motion and deny the defendant's motion.

For the reasons stated above and in the Report and Recommendation, the plaintiff's motion for judgment on the pleadings or, in the alternative, to remand for further proceedings, Docket Item 13, is GRANTED; the defendant's motion for judgment on the pleadings, Docket Item 16, is DENIED; the decision of the Commissioner is VACATED; and the matter is REMANDED for further administrative proceedings. The Clerk of the Court is instructed to close the file.

SO ORDERED.

Dated: February 1, 2018
Buffalo, New York

s/Lawrence J. Vilardo

LAWRENCE J. VILARDO
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE