

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF
FLORIDA

Silvio Hidalgo v. Lee Dudek, Acting Commissioner of the Social
Security Administration

Hidalgo · No. 24-cv-24746-BLOOM/D’Angelo · Decided January 29, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida adopted a magistrate judge’s Report and Recommendation in a Social Security disability action. The court denied Plaintiff Silvio Hidalgo’s motion for summary judgment, granted the Commissioner’s cross-motion, and affirmed the administrative decision finding that Hidalgo was not disabled. The court also denied pending motions as moot and directed the Clerk to close the case.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Beth Bloom
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida
DECIDED	January 29, 2026
DOCKET	24-cv-24746-BLOOM/D’Angelo
DISPOSITION	affirmed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiff sought review under the Social Security Act of the Commissioner's denial of disability benefits. After the parties filed cross-motions for summary judgment, the matter was referred to a magistrate judge, who recommended denying Plaintiff's motion and granting Defendant's motion. The district court conducted de novo review, adopted the Report and Recommendation, affirmed the Commissioner's decision, and closed the case.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The district court reviewed the magistrate judge's Report and Recommendation de novo under 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(C). The Commissioner's decision was reviewed to determine whether it was supported by substantial evidence and whether the correct legal standards were applied.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished district court order

PARTIES

Silvio Hidalgo v. Lee Dudek, Acting Commissioner of the Social Security Administration

TOPICS

summary judgment

judicial review of agency action

administrative law

civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

social security

administrative law

civil procedure

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the Commissioner's determination that Plaintiff was not disabled was supported by substantial evidence and free of legal error.
2. Whether the ALJ erred by determining Plaintiff's residual functional capacity without calling a medical expert.
3. Whether Plaintiff was entitled to summary judgment and whether the Commissioner was entitled to summary judgment.

HOLDINGS

1. The Commissioner's decision denying benefits was adequately supported by substantial evidence and did not contain reversible legal error.
2. The ALJ did not commit reversible error by failing to call a medical expert because the administrative record already contained sufficient evidence to support the residual functional capacity determination.
3. The reviewing court could not decide the facts anew, reweigh the evidence, or substitute its judgment for that of the Commissioner; because the ALJ's decision was supported by substantial evidence, the court was required to affirm.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“decide facts anew, reweigh the evidence, or substitute our judgment for that of the Commissioner.” (at 2 n.1)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

An ALJ determined that Silvio Hidalgo was not disabled under the Social Security Act on June 10, 2024. The ALJ's residual functional capacity determination was based on evidence in the administrative record, and the ALJ did not call a medical expert to provide an opinion on that issue. After the Appeals Council rejected Plaintiff's appeal, he sought judicial review, contending that the agency decision lacked substantial-evidence support and contained legal error.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

An Administrative Law Judge concluded on June 10, 2024, that Plaintiff was not disabled within the meaning of the Social Security Act. The Appeals Council denied relief, after which Plaintiff filed this action and moved for

summary judgment, arguing that the agency decision contained legal errors and was unsupported by substantial evidence. Magistrate Judge Ellen D'Angelo recommended denying Plaintiff's motion and granting Defendant's cross-motion; neither party objected, and the district court independently reviewed and adopted the recommendation.

DISPOSITION

affirmed

CASES CITED

- Williams v. McNeil, 557 F.3d 1287, 1291 (11th Cir. 2009)
- Mitchell v. Commissioner, Social Security Administration, 771 F.3d 780, 782 (11th Cir. 2014)

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