

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY PENSIONS

AGENDA

Board of Fire and Police Pension Commissioners

Garrett Zimmon, Chair
Brian Pendleton, Vice Chair
Ruben Navarro
Paul Weber

January 7, 2021

**10:00 a.m. or as soon thereafter as the
Board adjourns its regular meeting**

Sam Diannitto Boardroom
Los Angeles Fire and Police Pensions Building
701 East 3rd Street, Suite 400
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Important Message to the Public: In conformity with the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20 (March 17, 2020) and due to the public health concerns over COVID-19, this meeting of the Board of Fire and Police Pension Commissioners will be conducted via telephone and/or videoconferencing.

PLEASE NOTE: The Board Room will be closed during this meeting.

To provide public comment telephonically, please call (669) 900-9128 or (346) 248-7799 and enter Meeting ID 845 8721 6318# (Please note: Toll charges may apply.)

If you do not want to make a public comment, you may stream the meeting from the website (www.lafpp.com) or call any of the following numbers to access the Council Phone system and listen to live coverage: (213) 621-CITY (Downtown), (818) 904-9450 (Valley), (310) 471-CITY (Westside), and (310) 547-CITY (San Pedro Area).

Please refer to www.lafpp.com for more information.

An opportunity for the public to address the Board or Committee about any item on today's agenda for which there has been no previous opportunity for public comment will be provided before or during consideration of the item. Members of the public who wish to speak on any item on today's agenda are requested to use the telephone number provided above.

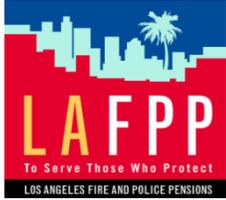
Notice to Paid Representatives: If you are compensated to monitor, attend, or speak at this meeting, City law may require you to register as a lobbyist and report your activity. See Los Angeles Municipal Code §§ 48.01 *et seq.* More information is available at ethics.lacity.org/lobbying. For assistance, please contact the Ethics Commission at (213) 978-1960 or ethics.commission@lacity.org

In compliance with Government Code Section 54957.5, non-exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all of the Board or applicable Committee of the Board in advance of their meetings may be viewed by clicking on LAFPP's website at www.lafpp.com. In addition, if you would like a copy of any record related to an item on the

agenda, please contact the Commission Executive Assistant, at (213) 279-3037 or by e-mail at evange.masud@lafpp.com.

Sign language interpreters, communication access real-time transcription, assistive listening devices, Telecommunication Relay Services (TRS) or other auxiliary aids and/or services may be provided upon request. To ensure availability, you are advised to make your request at least 72 hours prior to the meeting you wish to attend. Due to difficulties in securing sign language interpreters, five or more business days notice is strongly recommended. For additional information, please contact the Department of Fire and Police Pensions, (213) 279-3000 voice or (213) 628-7713 TDD.

1. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS ON MATTERS WITHIN THE COMMITTEE'S JURISDICTION
2. [DISCUSSION OF PILOT PROGRAM FOR MEDICAL RECORDS COLLECTION AND POSSIBLE COMMITTEE ACTION](#)



SPECIAL MEETING

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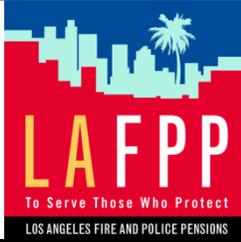
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DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND POLICE PENSIONS

701 E. 3rd Street, Suite 200
Los Angeles, CA 90013
(213) 279-3000

REPORT TO THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY PENSIONS

DATE: JANUARY 7, 2021 **ITEM:** 2

FROM: RAYMOND P. CIRANNA, GENERAL MANAGER

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION OF PILOT PROGRAM FOR MEDICAL RECORDS COLLECTION AND POSSIBLE COMMITTEE ACTION

BACKGROUND

The Disability Pensions Section's pilot program for medical records collection was approved by the Board on November 21, 2019. The pilot program was implemented by staff on August 1, 2020 and is scheduled to end on January 31, 2021. Under the pilot program, disability pension applicants are responsible for gathering their personal medical records and must complete and submit waivers to their medical providers to release all medical records to LAFPP that pertain to the applicant's claimed injury or illness. The member's disability application is considered complete once the Disability Pensions Section receives all the medical records. The requested medical records are then reviewed by staff for inclusion in the applicant's administrative file and forwarded to the pension physicians for review.

DISCUSSION

At the November 19, 2020 Board meeting, a representative of the Los Angeles Police Protective League commented to the Board that members have been experiencing issues with the pilot program for medical records collection. Since its implementation on August 1, 2020, staff has closely monitored feedback on the pilot program and has worked to swiftly address any issues brought to our attention by LAFPP members and/or their representatives. The following issues have been identified and addressed by staff thus far:

- Members have been experiencing difficulty obtaining their personnel records from their employing departments, as well as obtaining records from the City's Personnel Department, Medical Services Division, including Workers' Compensation records from the City's third-party administrator (TPA).
 - Staff addressed this issue by modifying the pilot program so that the applicant will only need to initiate requests for their military records and records for physicians seen or services rendered through their private insurance companies (i.e., outside the Workers' Compensation system).
 - Staff created an FAQ Sheet to serve as a quick reference for members, which answers the most common questions that members may have. This FAQ Sheet is now included with the pilot program application and is distributed to the various individuals representing applicants.

- Members were unable to request their own records due to illness, injury, or hardship.

- The pilot program informational booklet was designed with information addressing this issue.
- If a member is experiencing a hardship, he/she is asked to contact the Disability Pensions Section and if necessary, staff will assist the member in collecting the medical records.
- Members are being asked to pay for the release of medical records through their own medical providers.
 - If a member is asked to pay for the release of their records, we ask that they contact the Disability Pensions Section for assistance.
 - Staff will work with the member and the medical provider on securing the records since these fees are sometimes waived for government agencies.
- Members are sending the waivers for their medical records requests by certified mail.
 - There is no requirement to send these waivers by certified mail.
 - Most of the release forms included in the disability application package have email addresses or fax numbers on them, which the member may use to submit their requests.
 - Staff will reiterate this to the applicant during their initial interview.
- The pilot program is not producing results.
 - The pilot program has only been implemented since August 1, 2020.
 - It is too early to gauge the effectiveness of the program and whether it has a positive effect on the timeline of an applicant's claim.
 - We have received a total of 17 applications which fall under the pilot program, none of which are considered as complete. Staff is concurrently working on the application (wherever feasible) while pending the receipt of medical records. Staff anticipates that once all obtainable records are received, the process will move quickly.

BUDGET

No impact at this time.

POLICY

No policy changes at this time.

CONTRACTOR DISCLOSURE INFORMATION

There is no contractor disclosure information required with this report.

This report was prepared by:

Kristen M. Rosauer, Manager
Disability Pensions Section

RPC:JS:GM:KR