

MINUTES
OF THE
BOARD OF FIRE AND POLICE PENSION COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING OF DECEMBER 18, 2014

The Benefits Committee and members of the Board of Fire and Police Pension Commissioners of the City of Los Angeles met at the LACERS Board Room, located at the Los Angeles Times Building, 202 W. First Street, Suite 500, Los Angeles 90012 on Thursday, December 18, 2014.

COMMITTEE

MEMBERS PRESENT: George Aliano, Chair
Pedram Salimpour, Vice Chair
Sam Diannitto (participated telephonically)

COMMITTEE MEMBER

ABSENT: Carl Cade

OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT: Ruben Navarro
Corinne Tapia
Robert von Voigt

BENEFITS COMMITTEE

SUPPORT STAFF: Joseph Salazar, Assistant General Manager

**DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND
POLICE PENSIONS:**

Raymond Ciranna, General Manager
William Raggio, Executive Officer
Joseph Salazar, Assistant General Manager
Tom Lopez, Chief Investment Officer
Barbara Nobregas, Commission Executive Assistant

CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE: Alan Manning, Assistant City Attorney

Chair Aliano called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m. The Benefits Committee meeting will be noted as a Special Board meeting since a quorum of the Board was present. All of the above Commissioners were present at the start of the meeting.

1. CITY MANGEMENT AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS ASSIGNED TO THE DISABILITY PENSION SECTION AND POSSIBLE COMMITTEE ACTION

Mr. Chris Annala, Senior Management Analyst II and Ms. Tina Zipper, Senior Management Analyst I from the Disability Pension Section were before the Committee.

Chair Aliano stated that all of these management audit recommendations were reviewed about five or six years ago and were rejected by the Board. He reviewed each recommendation separately starting with recommendation #38.

Ms. Elsa Moy gave a public comment.

MOTION

Commissioner Diannitto moved that the Benefits Committee recommend to the Board that the Disability Analysts continue to follow current scheduling procedures and request that the Board consider scheduling Alt. 1 hearings at the beginning of the Board meeting as a standard practice, subject to the discretion of the Board President and the General Manager, seconded by Commissioner Salimpour and approved by the following vote: ayes, Commissioner Diannitto, Salimpour, and Chair Aliano – 3; nays, none.

Chair Aliano continued the discussion with recommendation #39 to shift some of the burden of information submission to the member as part of the disability application process.

Mr. Annala stated that he was not comfortable with recommendation #39. He did not believe that staff would receive all of the necessary reports from the applicant. He indicated it was sometimes difficult to obtain relevant information from applicants. Staff utilizes the applicant's attorney to assist with obtaining doctor reports and records. The Committee and staff further discussed the difficulty of gathering medical reports.

General Manager Ciranna stated that the Department serves a range of applicants who file for disability pensions. The applicants are told that it takes time to go through the process due to collecting reports. Many of the applicants do not understand the process. He believes there is some value in having the applicants obtain some of their records, and it provides the applicant some input into the process. The disability team will follow up and verify that all documents are collected. The recommendation is for consideration but whether it improves the timeliness of the process is to be determined.

The Committee further discussed the issue with staff.

Mr. Ken Buzzell, Director of the Los Angeles Retired Fire & Police Association gave a public comment.

MOTION

Commissioner Salimpour moved that the Benefits Committee recommend to the Board that the process remain as-is in that LAFPP Staff handles all responsibilities related to the disability process internally, including obtaining medical records, case management,

member counseling, evidence gathering, determining eligibility, calculating benefits, interpreting physician's reports, and preparing recommendations for the Board, seconded by Commissioner Diannitto and approved by the following vote: ayes, Commissioner Diannitto, Salimpour, and Chair Aliano – 3; nays, none.

Ms. Elsa Moy gave a public comment.

Chair Aliano provided background information in regards to recommendation #40 to determine what other common practices, such as delegating specific decision-making authority or retaining a Board medical advisor, could streamline the process, and what changes to governing law, policies or procedures would be necessary to do so.

Commissioner Salimpour stated that because of the thoroughness and thoughtfulness of staff, and how devoted they are to the members, he is not inclined to change the procedure.

MOTION

Commissioner Salimpour moved that the Benefits Committee recommend to the Board that the Board continue to follow current disability hearing procedures and rely upon the evidence in the Administrative File and testimony at hearings to make informed decisions, seconded by Commissioner Diannitto and approved by the following vote: ayes, Commissioner Diannitto, Salimpour, and Chair Aliano – 3; nays, none.

2. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON MATTERS WITHIN THE COMMITTEE'S JURISDICTION

There were no additional public comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 a.m.


Chair


Secretary