

MINUTES
OF THE
BOARD OF FIRE AND POLICE PENSION COMMISSIONERS
BENEFITS COMMITTEE MEETING OF APRIL 5, 2012

The Benefits Committee and members of the Board of Fire and Police Pension Commissioners of the City of Los Angeles met in Room 800, 360 East Second Street, on Thursday, April 5, 2012.

COMMITTEE

MEMBERS PRESENT: George Aliano, Chair
Sam Diannitto
Robert von Voigt

OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT: Ruben Navarro

BENEFITS COMMITTEE

SUPPORT STAFF: Joseph Salazar, Assistant General Manager

**DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND
POLICE PENSIONS:**

Michael Perez, General Manager
William Raggio, Assistant General Manager
Joseph Salazar, Assistant General Manager
Barbara Nobregas, Commission Executive Assistant

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

Chair Aliano called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. All of the above Commissioners were present at the start of the meeting with the exception of Commissioner Navarro who arrived at 8:02 a.m.

**1. BOARD-ORDERED REVIEWS OF DISABILITY PENSIONERS AND POSSIBLE
COMMITTEE ACTION**

Chair Aliano provided an overview of various issues to consider in regards to monitoring disability pension reviews, including the staff resources required and the number of years a disability pensioner may have been receiving a benefit. Commissioner Diannitto discussed the obstacles of a disability review process. He suggested if staff anticipates a disability pensioner may get well, to schedule a review for a future date at the time the benefit is granted.

Messrs. Chris Annala, Senior Management Analyst II and Jonathan Carroll, Management Analyst II, from the Disability Pension Section were before the Committee. Mr. Annala discussed the types of evidence presented to staff vs. sending out the proposed affidavit.

General Manager Perez stated that from staff's perspective, we wait until information is sent to us. Staff does not have reasons to look at the population of disability pensioners and evaluate if we can do something proactively to determine if there are members whose disability has changed. We currently have a process to review disability cases by checking if there is a need to review the case in a certain number of years or timeframe. The review period could be looked at further and refined to come up with a process that might address some of the concerns raised by other Board Members.

Mr. Pat McOkser, President of the United Firefighters of Los Angeles City gave a public comment urging the Committee members not to make changes to the disability review process.

The Committee further discussed the disability process. General Manager Perez provided an overview of communications sent to members.

Mr. Annala discussed the service pension rate for members in Tier 2 and the possibility of certain actions that may increase their pension.

General Manager Perez cautioned that if filters are used to identify certain injuries or groups of disability pensioners, to be mindful of the liabilities. We do audit and we send out communications to pensioners over age 65. The Committee and staff further discussed the issue of filters.

Mr. Ken Buzzell gave a public comment on the review process in relation to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

Mr. Thomas Wicke, Attorney from the law firm of Lewis, Marenstein, Wicke and Sherwin gave a public comment urging that the Committee not proceed forward with any changes to policy.

MOTION

Commissioner Diannitto moved that the Benefits Committee recommend to the Board that disability pension reviews remain as is, and to look at the front-end of the disability process to further refine it, seconded by Commissioner von Voigt and approved by the following vote: ayes, Commissioners Diannitto, von Voigt and Chair Aliano – 3 nays, none.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

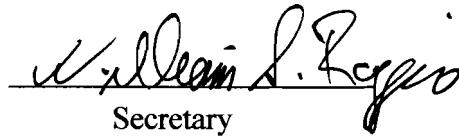
Ms. Elsa Moy gave a public comment.

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The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 a.m.



Chair



Secretary