

MINUTES
OF THE
BOARD OF FIRE AND POLICE PENSION COMMISSIONERS
BOARD MEETING OF JANUARY 5, 2023

The Board of Fire and Police Pension Commissioners of the City of Los Angeles met on Thursday, January 5, 2023.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Ken Buzzell, President (virtual participation)
Sumi Parekh, Vice President
Andrea Ambriz
Rigo Arellano
Brian Churchill (virtual participation)
Megan Hernandez (virtual participation)
Michael Lawson
Garrett Zimmon

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: William Chun

DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND POLICE PENSIONS: Joseph Salazar, Interim General Manager
William S. Raggio, Executive Officer
Tom Lopez, Interim Chief Investment Officer
Greg Mack, Acting Assistant General Manager
Evangalina Masud, Commission Executive Assistant

CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE: Joshua Geller, Deputy City Attorney IV

At the conclusion of the Special meeting, Vice President Parekh called the meeting to order at 8:39 a.m. All of the above-listed Commissioners were present at the start of the meeting.

A. CALL TO ORDER

1. Roll Call

B. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS ON MATTERS WITHIN THE BOARD'S JURISDICTION

There were no public comments.

C. DISABILITY CASES

DISABILITY CLAIM – NEW CLAIM – TIER 5

Guillermo Espinoza

(P)

Police Officer III

As recommended by Staff and concurred in by the applicant, a service-connected disability pension is granted at 48% for his low back and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) only and is subject to review no later than two years from now. Motion made by Commissioner Arellano, seconded by Vice President Parekh and adopted by the following vote: ayes, Commissioners Ambriz, Arellano, Churchill, Hernandez, Lawson, Parekh, Zimmon, and President Buzzell – 8; nays – none; absent – Commissioner Chun. Mr. Espinoza was represented by Thomas J. Wicke, Esq. of Lewis, Marenstein, Wicke, Sherwin, and Lee.

President Buzzell left for the remainder of the meeting at 8:56 a.m.

DISABILITY CLAIM – SURVIVING SPOUSE – TIER 5

Lisa D. Van Blarcom, Surviving Spouse of
Ray E. Van Blarcom (F) Fire Captain I (Deceased)

Prior Board Action of August 6, 2020, granting a nonservice-connected survivor pension is set aside and a service-connected survivor pension is granted. Motion made by Commissioner Churchill, seconded by Vice President Parekh and adopted by the following vote: ayes, Commissioners Ambriz, Arellano, Churchill, Hernandez, Lawson, Zimmon and Vice President Parekh – 7; nays – none; absent, Commissioner Chun and President Buzzell. Retired LAFD Captain I Greg A. Porter, LAFD Firefighter III Nicholas R. Van Blarcom, and Sean Leoni, M.D., testified regarding Fire Captain I Van Blarcom. Mrs. Lisa D. Van Blarcom was present and represented by Thomas J. Wicke, Esq. of Lewis, Marenstein, Wicke, Sherwin, and Lee.

D. REPORTS TO THE BOARD

Vice President Parekh recessed the meeting for a break at 9:52 a.m., and reconvened at 10 a.m.

1. OVERVIEW OF PRIVATE EQUITY

Mr. Todd A. Hughes, CFA and Managing Director and Ms. Liz Campbell, Managing Director of Portfolio Advisors presented and discussed this item with the Board. The report was received and filed.

2. RECOMMENDATION OF CONTRACT AWARD FOR FINANCIAL PLANNING EDUCATION SEMINAR CATERING SERVICES AND POSSIBLE BOARD ACTION

The report was approved as submitted.

Resolution 23107

Commissioner Parekh moved that the Board:

- 1) Approve a three-year contract with Rosie's Kitchen to provide Financial Planning Education (FPE) seminar program catering services for a total amount not to exceed \$120,000;
- 2) Authorize the Interim General Manager to negotiate and execute the terms and conditions of the contract; and
- 3) Authorize the President of the Board, on behalf of the Board, to execute the contract subject to the approval of the City Attorney as to form,

which was seconded by Commissioner Arellano and approved by the following vote: ayes, Commissioners Ambriz, Arellano, Churchill, Hernandez, Lawson, Zimmon and Vice President Parekh – 7; nays, none.

3. DEPARTMENT STAFFING LEVEL AND HIRING EFFORTS

Ms. Donna Baylosis, Department Personnel Officer, Human Resources Section presented and discussed this item with the Board. The report was received and filed.

4. ANNUAL CONFIRMATION OF ORGANIZATIONAL AND AUDITOR INDEPENDENCE AND POSSIBLE BOARD ACTION

The report was approved as submitted.

Resolution 23108

Commissioner Parekh moved that the Board review, receive and file the annual confirmation of organizational independence of the internal audit activity and auditor independence,

which was seconded by Commissioner Ambriz and approved by the following vote: ayes, Commissioners Ambriz, Arellano, Churchill, Hernandez, Lawson, Zimmon and Vice President Parekh – 7; nays, none.

E. INTERIM GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

1. Benefits Actions approved by Interim General Manager on December 15, 2022

Pursuant to Resolution 04008, adopted by the Board of Fire and Police Pension Commissioners on August 7, 2003, the following benefit actions have been approved by the General Manager.

DISCONTINUED PENSIONS – TIER 1 – 2

Beryl Kemper	Fire Widow	Retired:	06-18-96	Died:	11-07-22
Shirley Stevens	Police Widow	Retired:	12-01-05	Died:	11-18-22

DISCONTINUED PENSIONS – TIER 2 – 13

James J. Bosse	Police Service	Retired:	07-19-98	Died:	10-11-22
David O. Gunning	Police Service	Retired:	03-29-98	Died:	11-14-22
Gloria D. Harber	Police Service	Retired:	07-20-86	Died:	11-13-22
Robert P. Iannessa	Police Service	Retired:	07-05-90	Died:	11-15-22
Dwayne B. Smith	Fire Disability	Retired:	08-10-89	Died:	10-21-22
Ronald E. Zink	Fire Disability	Retired:	12-07-89	Died:	10-22-22
Donald J. Anderson	Police Disability	Retired:	05-27-93	Died:	09-09-22
Thomas A. Seccombe	Police Disability	Retired:	08-08-91	Died:	11-07-22
Mildred F. Beaver	Fire Widow	Retired:	07-17-14	Died:	09-28-22
Roberta K. Smith	Fire Widow	Retired:	05-05-14	Died:	10-22-22
Virginia M. Tisinger	Fire Widow	Retired:	01-09-22	Died:	10-26-22
Judy K. Walgren	Fire Widow	Retired:	05-31-14	Died:	11-25-22
Lettie J. Mann	Police Widow	Retired:	08-03-10	Died:	11-01-22

DISCONTINUED PENSIONS – TIER 5 – 3

Jerry J. Thomas	Fire Service	Retired:	12-01-02	Died:	10-31-22
Robert B. Bermudez	Police Service	Retired:	01-01-13	Died:	11-07-22
Leon Mims, Jr.	Police Service	Retired:	07-01-09	Died:	10-10-22

ELIGIBLE SURVIVING SPOUSE’S PENSION – TIER 2 – 5

<u>Name</u>	<u>Deceased Member</u>	<u>Member’s Class</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Julie L. Bosse	James J. Bosse	Police Service	10-12-22
Gloria J. Gunning	David O. Gunning	Police Service	11-15-22
Dorothy M. Iannessa	Robert P. Iannessa	Police Service	11-16-22
Kay J. Johnson	Thomas G. Johnson	Police Service	11-10-22
Mary A. Zink	Ronald E. Zink	Fire Disability	10-23-22

ELIGIBLE SURVIVING SPOUSE’S PENSION – TIER 5 – 2

<u>Name</u>	<u>Deceased Member</u>	<u>Member’s Class</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Debra A. Thomas	Jerry J. Thomas	Fire Service	11-01-22
Virginia Bermudez	Robert B. Bermudez	Police Service	11-08-22

SURVIVOR BENEFIT PURCHASE PROGRAM PENSION – TIER 2 – 1

<u>Name</u>	<u>Member’s Class</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Survivor Benefit %</u>
Mary A. Mahoney	Police Service	11-14-22	30%

DECREASE SURVIVING SPOUSE’S PENSION – TIER 5 – 1

Decrease the pension payable to Denise E. Reich, surviving spouse of deceased Police Officer III Robert S. Reich, due to the discontinuance of full-time student status by Jessica P. Reich, effective December 1, 2022.

DISCONTINUE SURVIVING CHILD'S PENSION – TIER 3 – 1

Discontinue the pension payable to Amilah Camara, surviving child of deceased Police Officer II Musa T. Camara, effective December 9, 2022, due to the attainment of age 22 on December 10, 2022.

DISCONTINUE SURVIVING CHILD'S PENSION – TIER 5 – 1

Discontinue the pension payable to Jessica P. Reich, surviving child of deceased Police Officer III Robert S. Reich, effective December 1, 2022, due to the discontinuance of full-time student status.

PARTIAL PAYMENT OF PENSION – TIER 5 – 1

In accordance with the City Attorney's advice, a designated proportion of the community property interest of the pension payable to Salvador Ogaz, Jr., Police Service Pensioner, is to be paid to his former spouse, Rosemary Olivo, effective October 23, 2022. Ms. Olivo will receive cost of living adjustments.

PARTIAL PAYMENT OF SURVIVING SPOUSE'S PENSION – TIER 5 – 1

In accordance with the City Attorney's advice, a designated proportion of the community property interest of the Surviving Spouse Pension payable to Roselee M. Knox, surviving spouse of deceased Police Officer III Kendrick A. Knox, is to be released to his former spouse, Sheryl Knox, effective September 6, 2021. Ms. Knox will receive cost of living adjustments.

MODIFIED PARTIAL PAYMENT OF PENSION – TIER 5 – 3

In accordance with the City Attorney's advice, a designated proportion of the community property interest of the pension payable to Mark J. Wilhite, Fire Service Pensioner, being withheld for his former spouse, Sandra F. Ewell, since August 1, 2022, should be released, effective December 1, 2022. Ms. Ewell will receive cost of living adjustments.

In accordance with the City Attorney's advice, a designated proportion of the community property interest of the pension payable to Brian L. Preston, Police Service Pensioner, being withheld for his former spouse, Erika L. Wilson, since June 1, 2022, should be released effective December 1, 2022.

In accordance with the City Attorney's advice, a designated proportion of the community property interest of the pension payable to Terence A. Turner, Police Service Pensioner, being withheld for his former spouse, Sheryl E. Jones, since February 1, 2021, should be released effective December 1, 2022.

DEFERRED SERVICE PENSION – TIER 3 – 1

Police

Rodolfo A. Fuentes Sergeant I Eff: 12-12-22 26 Years 265 Days

SERVICE PENSION – TIER 3 – 4

Police

Stefanie M. Fryer Police Officer III Eff: 11-20-22 27 Years 207 Days

Christina Mejicanos Police Officer II Eff: 11-02-22 26 Years 254 Days

Sandra G. Sands Police Officer III Eff: 11-20-22 27 Years 105 Days

Howard M. Sebring Police Officer III Eff: 12-02-22 27 Years 226 Days

SERVICE PENSION – TIER 5 – 9

Fire

Sandra A. Ames Engineer Eff: 10-09-22 22 Years 279 Days

Police

Gabriel R. Barboza Detective III Eff. 10-26-22 33 Years 26 Days

Salvador Flores Police Officer III Eff. 10-15-22 25 Years 143 Days

Jeffrey L. Lamonica Police Officer III Eff: 11-08-22 25 Years 189 Days

Jesus X. Miranda Police Officer III Eff: 11-06-22 26 Years 127 Days

Salvador Ogaz, Jr. Sergeant I Eff: 10-23-22 26 Years 38 Days

Lucas J. Padilla Detective I Eff: 10-23-22 28 Years 62 Days

Leslee M. Rogers Police Officer III Eff: 10-23-22 25 Years 24 Days

Jason J. Schwab Police Officer III Eff: 11-15-22 24 Years 46 Days

DISCONTINUE DROP – TIER 3 – 1

Police

Osbaldo P. Ramos Retired: 10-01-22 Exit Close of: 11-05-22

DISCONTINUE DROP – TIER 5 – 1

Police

Thomas M. Gandara Retired: 04-01-21 Exit Close of: 11-30-22

MODIFIED PARTIAL PAYMENT OF DROP FUNDS – TIER 5 – 2

In accordance with the City Attorney’s advice, a designated proportion of the community property interest of the DROP funds payable to Brian L. Preston, Police Service Pensioner, being withheld for his former spouse, Erika L. Wilson, since May 31, 2022, should be released effective December 1, 2022.

In accordance with the City Attorney’s advice, a designated proportion of the community property interest of the DROP funds payable to Terence A. Turner, Police Service Pensioner, being withheld for his former spouse, Sheryl E. Jones, since January 31, 2021, should be released effective December 1, 2022.

SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY PENSION – TIER 5 – 2

<u>Name</u>	<u>Member’s Rank</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Board Date</u>
Nichole S. Hollick	Police Officer II	60%	11-22-22	12-01-22
Thomas G. Trejo	Police Officer II	55%	11-22-22	12-01-22

DISABILITY PENSION ADJUSTED – TIER 5 – 2

<u>Name</u>	<u>Member’s Rank</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Board Date</u>
Hilton C. Henry	Police Officer II	From: 65%	05-16-19	05-16-19
		To: 70%	11-17-22	11-17-22

<u>Name</u>	<u>Member’s Rank</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Board Date</u>
Sandra Parshall (Gene R. Parshall)	Detective II	From: Service Pension Continuance: 100% + 1 minor child	08-22-19	09-19-19
		To: Service Connected: 75% + 1 minor child	08-22-19	11-17-22

2. Other business relating to Department operations

Interim General Manager Salazar gave the following updates:

- Fund total is at \$28.2 billion this week.
- The new Form W-4P for pensioners to request changes to their federal tax withholding was deployed in our pension administration system and on our website as of January 1st.

- City Councilmember Paul Koretz introduced a motion on 12/9/22 directing the Chief Legislative Analyst and the City Administrative Office to report back in 60 days on the impact of having all City Departments (including DWP, LAWA, and Harbor) cease travel to conferences, including cost and greenhouse gas emissions savings, possible loss of information and/or influence of the City, and on a strategy to communicate to all relevant conference hosts that the City of Los Angeles will participate only via video technology; and the feasibility of having all City departments cease daily automobile travel to meetings to the extent possible and that all meetings going forward be accomplished via video conferencing, including Council committees, City commissions, and other meetings.

The Motion further requests that the Personnel Department be directed to report back in 60 days on the impacts of officially changing City policy to optimize remote work among all City staff wherever possible and include the above items in any telecommuting policy making already underway.

The motion has been referred to the Budget & Finance Committee. We will monitor this motion and any related City Council actions and report back to the Board as needed.

- Evange will be emailing another request for Commissioners' availability over the next few weeks for staff training, which covers various topics such as Board governance, public meeting laws, investment topics, and benefits overview.

F. CONSENT ITEMS

1. DETERMINATION TO CONTINUE TELECONFERENCING OPTION FOR BOARD MEETINGS PURSUANT TO ASSEMBLY BILL 361 AND POSSIBLE BOARD ACTION

Resolution 23109

Commissioner Ambriz moved that the Board adopt the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, LAFPP is committed to preserving public access and participation in meetings of the Board of Fire and Police Pension Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, all LAFPP Board meetings are open and public, as required by the Ralph M. Brown Act (Cal. Gov. Code §§ 54950 – 54963), so that any member of the public may attend and participate as the LAFPP Board conducts its business; and

WHEREAS, the Brown Act, at Section 54953(e), makes provisions for remote teleconferencing participation in meetings by members of a legislative body, subject to the existence of certain conditions; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 State of Emergency proclaimed by the Governor on March 4, 2020, remains active; and

WHEREAS, on October 7, 2021, the Board met via teleconference and/or in the Board room and determined by majority vote, pursuant to Government Code Section 54953(e)(1)(B)-(C), that due to the COVID-19 State of Emergency, meeting in person without continuing to provide a teleconference and/or videoconference option for Board members and the public, as permitted by the Brown Act, would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees; and

WHEREAS, the Board has reconsidered the circumstances of the State of Emergency; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 remains a public health concern in Los Angeles, with a High or Substantial rate of community transmission.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that pursuant to Government Code Section 54953(e)(1)(B)-(C), the Board finds that holding Board meetings in person without continuing to provide a teleconference and/or videoconference option for Board members and the public, as permitted by the Brown Act, would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that pursuant to Government Code Section 54953(e)(3)(A) and (B)(i), the Board finds that the COVID-19 State of Emergency continues to directly impact the ability of all Board members to meet safely in person.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board instruct staff to report back on January 19, 2023, and every thirty (30) days or fewer through February 2023, for the Board to reconsider the circumstances of the State of Emergency and determine, as required by Assembly Bill 361, whether that State of Emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person and/or state or local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing,

which was seconded by Commissioner Zimmon and approved by the following vote: ayes, Commissioners Ambriz, Arellano, Churchill, Hernandez, Lawson, Zimmon and Vice President Parekh – 7; nays, none.

2. STATUS AND DISCUSSION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEM REQUESTS AND POSSIBLE BOARD ACTION

Resolution 23110

Commissioner Ambriz moved that the Board:

- 1) Approve the status of the Future Agenda Item Requests as reflected on Attachment I (Active Items); and
- 2) Approve the status of the Future Agenda Item Requests as reflected on Attachment II (Completed Items),

which was seconded by Commissioner Zimmon and approved by the following vote: ayes, Commissioners Ambriz, Arellano, Churchill, Hernandez, Lawson, Zimmon and Vice President Parekh – 7; nays, none.

3. Findings of Fact

- a. Nichole S. Hollick – Tier 5
- b. Thomas G. Trejo – Tier 5

Commissioner Ambriz moved that the Board approve the consent items, which was seconded by Commissioner Zimmon and approved by the following vote: ayes, Commissioners Ambriz, Arellano, Churchill, Hernandez, Lawson, Zimmon and Vice President Parekh – 7; nays, none.

G. CONSIDERATION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioner Ambriz requested a co-investment presentation from Portfolio Advisors. Commissioner Zimmon requested bi-monthly updates on department staffing levels and hiring efforts.

H. CLOSED SESSION

- 1. CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54956.81 TO CONSIDER THE PURCHASE OF ONE (1) PARTICULAR, SPECIFIC INVESTMENT AND POSSIBLE BOARD ACTION

The Board met in closed session.

Upon reconvening in open session, Vice President Parekh stated there was no public report.

Vice President Parekh called for public comment to which there was none.

Meeting ended at 11:36 a.m.

Kenneth E. Byggell

President

[Signature]
Secretary