

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON FIREFIGHTERS' RELIEF AND RETIREMENT FUND

A regular meeting of the Houston Firefighters' Relief and Retirement Fund (HFRRF) Board of Trustees convened at the Fund offices at 4225 Interwood North Parkway, Houston, Texas 77032 on Tuesday, January 17, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.

Trustees present were Brett R. Besselman (Chair), Stephen R. Whitehead (Vice Chair), Lisa R. Slagle (Secretary), Gerard L. Daniels, Pete Ng, David O. Lantrip, Earnest W. Wotring, and Albertino Mays. Trustees absent were David Riegor and Arif Rasheed. Also present were staff members Timothy Schauer (Executive Director), Ajit Singh (Chief Investment Officer), Claudia McInnis (Director of Finance & Administration), Dalia De La Cruz (Director of Member Services), Andrea Sharayha (Director of Human Resources), John D. Moore II (Director of Technology and Building Services), and Adam E. Smith (General Counsel).

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance and observed a moment of silence.

The Chair invited comments from the public. No comments were received.

The Chair administered the oath of office to newly elected and appointed Board members for their new terms: Gerard L. Daniels (Position V) and Albertino Mays (Citizen Member).

The following nominations were held for the Board of Trustees Officers for calendar year 2023.

David O. Lantrip nominated Lisa R. Slagle for Secretary, Stephen R. Whitehead for Vice Chair, and Brett R. Besselman for Chair.

Gerard L. Daniels nominated Pete Ng for Secretary.

Stephen R. Whitehead nominated Brett R. Besselman for Chair.

Brett R. Besselman nominated Stephen R. Whitehead for Vice Chair.

No further nominations.

There was a motion by Stephen R. Whitehead, seconded by Pete Ng, to approve the following items listed on the consent agenda:

- A. Approval of the minutes of the regular Board meeting held on Tuesday, December 13, 2022.
- B. Approval of the minutes of the Pension Benefits Committee meeting held on Tuesday, December 13, 2022.
- C. Approval of the minutes of the Investment Committee meeting held on Tuesday, December 13, 2022.

The motion carried.

The Chief Investment Officer reviewed the Allocation and Activity Summary showing the market value of the Fund's assets as of December 31, 2022, to be approximately \$4.964 billion. He also noted that as of December 31, 2022, the estimated Fiscal Year 2023 rate of return is -0.39%. He then reviewed the Fiscal Year 2023 Private Market and Real Estate targets and the monthly investment actions taken.

The Chair reviewed the proposed changes to the pension benefits policy section 6.06 on informal marriage (attached hereto as Exhibit A).

There was a motion by Stephen R. Whitehead, seconded by Gerard L. Daniels to approve the changes to the pension benefits policy 6.06 on informal marriage as presented. The motion carried.

The General Counsel provided updates on the Fund's lawsuits against the City of Houston and City officials related to Senate Bill 2190 in the 85th Texas legislature and on the declaratory judgment relating to informal marriage.

The meeting adjourned at 10:33 a.m. on a motion by David O. Lantrip, seconded by Gerard L. Daniels. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa R. Slagle
Board Secretary

Houston Firefighters' Relief and Retirement Fund
Informal Marriage Policy
Exhibit A to the January 17, 2023 minutes

- 6.06 A. To be eligible for benefits as an eligible spouse pursuant to an informal marriage the proof of such informal marriage must be in the following form:
- (a.) a signed declaration of informal marriage form, identifying the date such informal marriage began and filed with the county clerk as provided for in the Texas Family Code 2.402 and provided to the Fund prior to the death of the member,

 - (b.) a final and non-appealable order issued by a Texas court of competent jurisdiction, obtained and filed with the Fund prior to the death of the member, that an informal marriage existed under the Texas Family Code and provides the date such informal marriage began., or

 - (c.) a copy of the member's and applicant's last federal income tax returns filed with the IRS while the member was still alive (along with proof of the date of such filing) indicating the member and applicant reported identical home addresses and were either married filing jointly or married filing separately. A return filed with the IRS (i.) prior to the three-year period immediately preceding the date of the member's death, or (ii.) on behalf of the member after the member's death does not satisfy the requirements of this subsection.

If an applicant offers proof of informal marriage pursuant to subsection 6.06(c) then the first date of marriage shall be deemed to be December 31st of the earliest year for which federal income tax returns are provided comporting with the requirements of that subsection.

An applicant for benefits as an eligible spouse pursuant to an informal marriage is not eligible to receive any benefits as an eligible spouse which have already been paid (including any DROP, PROP, or monthly pension payments) to other eligible survivors or beneficiaries prior to the submission of such applicant's completed application including the required proof of informal marriage as described above.

An applicant for benefits as an eligible spouse pursuant to an informal marriage is ineligible for such benefit unless the applicant completes the proper application and provides supporting documentation as required by the Fund by the later of:

- A. March 3, 2023; or
- B. forty-five (45) after the date of the member's death.