

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 on Tuesday, August 15, 2017 at 10:10 a.m.

Trustees present were David L. Keller, Jr., (Chair), Stephen R. Whitehead (Vice Chair), Francis "Frank" X. Maher (Secretary), Garry W. Blackmon, Sr., Juliet N. Higgins, Brett R. Besselman, Earnest W. Wotring, Arif Rasheed, Albertino Mays and Carroll G. Robinson. Others present were staff members Ralph D. Marsh (Executive Director) Jonathan W. Needle (Chief Legal Officer) and Ajit Singh (Chief Investment Officer).

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

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

Fund Member (Retired) Steve Williams expressed his appreciation of the Board's recap of the 85th regular Texas legislative session during a prior meeting. He asked for the utilization of retired Houston firefighters and others to assist the Fund in the interest of the membership. He also requested an update on the status of Fund litigation concerning SB 2190 and a review of potential payroll changes.

There was a motion by Stephen R. Whitehead, seconded by Garry W. Blackmon, Sr., to approve the minutes of the regular Board meeting held on Thursday, July 20, 2017, as presented. The motion carried.

There was a motion by Albertino Mays, seconded by Francis "Frank" X. Maher, to approve the following items listed on the Consent Agenda:

- a) Report of the Pension Benefits Committee meeting held on Thursday, July 20, 2017.
- b) Minutes of the Investment Committee meeting held on Thursday, July 20, 2017.
- c) Report of the Budget and Audit Committee meeting held on Thursday, July 20, 2017.
- d) Minutes of the Personnel and Procedures Committee meeting held on Thursday, July 20, 2017.
- e) Minutes of the Legislative Committee meeting held on Monday, August 7, 2017.

The motion carried.

The Report of the Pension Benefits Committee held on Thursday, July 20, 2017 noted the following: Approval of revised application(s) for the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP) to be effective June 1, 2016; no application(s) for the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP) to be effective for August 1, 2017; approval of revised application(s) for the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP) to be effective July 1, 2017; 2 applications for service retirements; suspension of members' July 2017 benefit until the "2016 *Employment Activities and Earnings Verification*", a required document, has been submitted to the Fund, and; approval of a revised "Schedule A" for June 20, 2017.

There was a motion by Arif Rasheed, seconded by Juliet N. Higgins, to take up agenda items number 8, "*City's litigation against the Fund's former actuarial firm*", number 9 "*Litigation appealing a benefits determination*" and number 10, "*The Fund's governmental relations services*", before agenda items number 6 and 7. The motion carried.

The Chief Legal Officer provided an update on the City's litigation against the Fund's former actuarial firm.

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The Board was informed by the Chief Legal Officer that the Fund was awaiting a setting by the Harris County District Court on an administrative appeal of a Fund benefits determination.

The Board noted that a contract for certain governmental relations services was drawing to an end in the fall. The Chair designated an ad-hoc committee of Trustees Garry W. Blackmon, Sr., Carroll G. Robinson, Brett R. Besselman and Juliet N. Higgins, with Garry W. Blackmon, Sr., as Chair of the ad-hoc advisory committee, to study this area of contracted services and return to the board with its advice at a September Board meeting. The Executive Director and Chief Legal Officer could assist the committee.

Arif Rasheed exited the meeting at 10:56 a.m.

The Chief Legal Officer provided the status of the Fund's litigation against the City of Houston (City) relating to Senate Bill 2190 in the 85th Texas (*regular*) legislature.

The Chair announced that the Board was going into closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 551.071 to receive confidential legal advice from legal counsel.

Earnest W. Wotring, the Mayor's representative, exited the meeting.

The Board went into closed session at 11:01 a.m.

The Board resumed open session at 11:14 a.m.

Earnest W. Wotring, the Mayor's representative re-entered the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

The Chief Legal Officer discussed certain issues arising in the implementation of Senate Bill 2190,

The following items were requested for a discussion on a future agenda:

Brett R. Besselman requests a brief discussion on certain Houston "*Non-Certified Firefighter/EMT Trainees*" and Cadet's in the academy concerning pension entrance date.

Juliet N. Higgins requests discussion on Fund forecasting as a results of the passage of SB 2190 affecting the Fund.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:42 a.m. on a motion by Albertino Mays, seconded by Garry W. Blackmon, Sr. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Francis "Frank" X. Maher
Secretary