

## 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 15, 2019 at 10:04 A.M.

Trustees present were Brett Robert Besselman (Chair), Stephen R. Whitehead (Vice Chair), Lisa R. Slagle (Secretary), Garry W. Blackmon, Sr., Juliet N. Higgins, Gerard L. Daniels, David O. Lantrip, Arif Rasheed and Albertino "Al" Mays. Trustee absent was Earnest W. Wotring. 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 10:04 A.M.

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

David O. Lantrip affirmed that "*Comments from the Public*" can be extended at the discretion of the Board.

Retired Fund Member Steve Williams wished all in attendance a Happy New Year.

Brett R. Besselman (Chair) administered the oath of office to newly elected Board member David O. Lantrip (Trustee Position X) and newly appointed Board member Albertino Mays (Citizen Member) respectively for their new terms.

The Chair called for election of HFRRF Board of Trustee Officers for calendar year 2019. There was a nomination by Garry W. Blackmon, Sr., seconded by Lisa R. Slagle, to elect Brett R. Besselman as Board Chair for calendar year 2019. Brett R. Besselman was elected Chair. There was a nomination by Garry W. Blackmon, Sr., seconded by Lisa R. Slagle, to re-elect Stephen R. Whitehead as Vice Chair for calendar year 2019. Stephen R. Whitehead was elected Vice Chair. There was a nomination by Albertino "Al" Mays, seconded by David O. Lantrip, to elect Lisa R. Slagle as Board Secretary for calendar year 2019. Lisa R. Slagle was elected Board Secretary.

The Chair noted that the 2019 Board Committee assignments will be announced at the February 2019 Board meeting.

There was a motion by Juliet N. Higgins, seconded by Gerard L. Daniels, for approval of the minutes of the regular Board meeting held on Tuesday, December 18, 2018. The motion carried.

There was a motion by David O. Lantrip, seconded by Albertino "Al" Mays, to approve the following items listed on the Consent Agenda:

- a) Report of the Pension Benefits Committee meeting held on Tuesday, December 18, 2018, as amended;
- b) Minutes of the Investment Committee meeting held on Tuesday, November 18, 2018; and,
- c) Acceptance of complimentary registration for Ajit Singh (CIO) to attend the Institutional Investor "*Emerging Markets Forum*" February 27-28, 2019, in Austin, TX.

The motion carried.

The report of the Pension Benefits Committee meeting held on Tuesday, December 18, 2018, noted the following: Continuation of disability benefits as shown on Member Services Report (2) regarding the random re-examination of a pension recipient currently receiving a disability pension under Section 6(c) of the statute, and based on the result of the random re-examination; continuation of disability benefits as shown on Member Services Report (3) regarding the random re-examination of a pension recipient currently receiving a disability pension under Section 6(c) of the statute, and based on the result of the random re-examination; approval of application(s) for membership into the Fund as shown on Member Services Report (4); approval of an application for a Deferred Retirement as shown on Member Services Report (5),

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to be effective October 27, 2028; and approval of application(s) for disability benefits under Section 6(e) as shown on Member Services Report (1).

There was a motion by Lisa R. Slagle, seconded by Juliet N. Higgins, approving the recommendation of the Pension Benefits Committee regarding adoption of a Board interpretation, as presented and recited, concerning qualification as an eligible disabled child and of a related Fund policy (*Pension Benefits Policies, Section IV, 6.00 - 6.05 A and B*), as presented and recited. The motion carried.

The Chief Legal Officer provided an update on an appeal of a disability determination.

The Chief Legal Officer noted bills of interest to the Fund in Texas' 86<sup>th</sup> legislative session.

The Chief Legal Officer provided an update on Fund litigation against the City of Houston related to Senate Bill 2190 in the 85th Texas legislature.

Lisa R. Slagle (Citizen Member) and Gerard L. Daniels provided comment on their attendance at the 2018-19 Texas Attorney General's Open Government Conference held December 3-5, 2018 in San Marcos, Texas.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:44 A.M. on a motion by Garry W. Blackmon, Sr., seconded by Albertino "Al" Mays. The motion carried.

Sincerely,

Lisa R. Slagle  
Board Secretary