



*Investing for Firefighters and Their Families®*

A PUBLICATION FOR THE  
**ACTIVE/RETIRED  
MEMBERS  
AND BENEFICIARIES**  
OF THE HOUSTON FIREFIGHTERS'  
RELIEF AND RETIREMENT FUND



*Brett Robert Besselman  
Chair  
(Effective July 1, 2018)*

**BRETT ROBERT BESSELMAN TO CHAIR THE HOUSTON FIREFIGHTERS' RELIEF AND RETIREMENT FUND BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

HOUSTON (2018) – Houston firefighter Brett R. Besselman was elected at the Board's June 19, 2018 regular meeting to chair the Houston Firefighters' Relief and Retirement Fund after Chairman David Keller announced his resignation of the position for personal and family reasons. Besselman, who steps into the role July 1, said that he is deeply humbled by the Board's decision and conveyed that he will in the coming weeks and months be in close communication with all HFRRF members and stakeholders, both active and retired, taking

into account all of their points of view as the board collectively takes up the issues surrounding the transition and unintended consequences of mandated alteration legislated to our plan moving forward. Besselman, 33, was elected and sworn in to the Board in October 2016. He was immediately thrust into the contentious issue of the City of Houston's proposed pension legislation. He's been a member of the Houston Firefighter Department for nearly eight years and hopes to endure a long tenure to affect a significant impact in the future security of the firefighter plan.

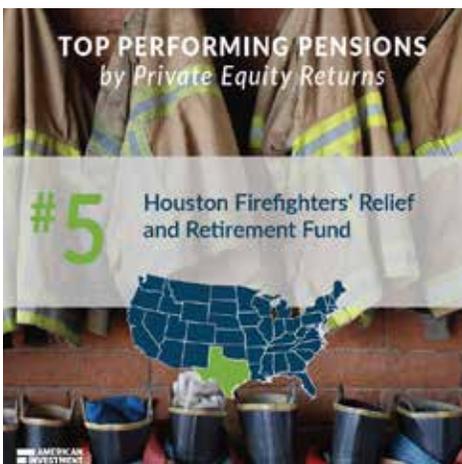
**A MESSAGE FROM FORMER CHAIRMAN KELLER**

As I reflect on the past two years, I am overwhelmed by all of the things that I would like to say and share. There is not space for all of the thoughts, frustrations, disappointments, and joys. Yes, joys. I love Houston Firefighters – actives, retirees, and those yet to be born. Firefighters face the worst and make it better. We cannot turn back the bad that happens in peoples' lives; we can only strive to make the bad things stop and hopefully leave them with a sense that we care. This is noble and it is why the people in the City of Houston adore firefighters – not the city government, the people. We do this for the people.

Two years ago, without warning, the Houston Firefighters' Relief Fund found itself without a Chair of the Board of Trustees. The Fund and the City were in intense discussions about changes or "reforms" to the HFRRF for the 2017 Legislative session and the time until the session was getting short. The Board of Trustees selected me to serve as Chair just ahead of the most difficult time in this Fund's history. I was honored and willing to serve for the good of the firefighters, retirees, families, and widows.

I do not think that any of us could have reasonably expected, at the time, how difficult things were going to get. The negotiations with the City Administration were difficult. The contentious legislative session left everyone involved exhausted. By the time it was all over in Austin, Houston Firefighters were left with less than they had been promised. The pension that we had all counted on at the end of decades of sweat, tears, blood, and sacrifice was reduced over our objections.

*Continued on page 6*



*The American Investment Council Named HFRRF number five of the Top 10 Pension Funds by Private Equity Returns.*

*Source: American Investment Council*



## HFRRF ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR POSITIONS I AND X



The Houston Firefighters' Relief and Retirement Fund will be accepting nominations for Positions Number One (I) and Ten (X) on the Houston Firefighters' Relief and Retirement Fund Board of Trustees.

**Position I** - must be selected from the ranks of Engineer/Operator or Firefighter.

**Position X** - must be selected from those retired members with at least 20 years of participation in the Fund.

Nomination forms may be downloaded from our website [www.hfrf.org](http://www.hfrf.org), or picked up at the Fund office at 4225 Interwood North Parkway during normal business hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). Completed nomination forms may be hand-delivered by the nominee or other interested party or mailed to the Fund office (can be received electronically).

Nomination forms must be received at the Fund Offices during normal business hours between **August 1, 2018 and the third Friday in August (August 17, 2018)**. Candidates elected to Positions Number I and X will serve on the Board for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2019.

The dates for acceptance of the mail ballots for this position will be **October 1, 2018 through October 18, 2018**. For more information go to: [www.hfrf.org/about-us/board-of-trustees-election](http://www.hfrf.org/about-us/board-of-trustees-election).

<i>Election Date</i>		<i>Run-off Date</i>
8/1/18 - 8/17/18	Acceptance of Nomination Forms	N/A
8/24/18	Election Meeting	10/26/18
10/1/18	Mail Ballots and Election Profile	11/1/18
10/18/18	Ballots Due to Independent Election Service	11/19/18
10/19/18	Election Service to Announce Winner	11/20/18

## TEXAS BEWARE: 2018 HURRICANE SEASON EXPECTED TO BE MORE ACTIVE THAN USUAL

Forecasters at the Atmospheric Science Department at Colorado State University have released their first prediction for the 2018 hurricane season, with a total of 14 named tropical storms, of which seven will become hurricanes, with three having the possibility of reaching category 3.

## UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES: HOW SCALING BACK PUBLIC PENSIONS PUTS GOVERNMENT REVENUES AT RISK



On May 16, 2018, the National Conference on Public Employee Retirement Systems (NCPERS) released its study, *Unintended Consequences: How Scaling Back Public Pensions Puts Government Revenues at Risk*. The study analyzed how investment and spending related to public pension funds affect state and local economies and revenues.

### Some of the key findings include:

In 2016, public pension plans contributed a net \$137.3 billion in revenue to state and local governments, which significantly helped to strengthen the U.S. economy. The investment of pension fund assets contributed \$587.5 billion to the economy, which yielded \$125.7 billion in state and local revenues.

Retirees received \$303.1 billion in pension checks, which contributed \$757.8 billion to the U.S. economy and \$151.9 billion to state and local revenues. In total, public pensions contributed \$1.3 trillion to the U.S. economy and \$277.6 billion to state and local revenues due to the investment of assets and spending of pension checks by retirees.

The report concludes, "The fact is that dismantling public pensions carries a grave cost. Far from easing the perceived burdens on taxpayers, pursuing this path would actually increase the costs to taxpayers by \$137.3 billion. Taxpayers cannot afford continued dismantling of public pensions. Policy makers need to preserve and enhance public pensions. To address short-term budget problems, they should look at tax subsidies and loopholes. In the long run, they need to make their revenue structures progressive."

*Source: The analysis was based on historical data from 1977 to 2016 from public sources including the Bureau of Economic Analysis, Bureau of Labor Statistics, and U.S. Census Bureau.*

*National Conference on Public Employee Retirement Systems The Voice for Public Pensions MAY 2018  
[www.ncpers.org/files/NCPERS%20Unintended%20Consequences%20Report\\_FINAL%20EDIT.pdf](http://www.ncpers.org/files/NCPERS%20Unintended%20Consequences%20Report_FINAL%20EDIT.pdf)*

The forecast also predicted a 38 percent chance of one of these major hurricanes making landfall on the Gulf Coast. The area of impact ranges from the Florida panhandle to Brownsville, Texas. The chance of at least one major hurricane making landfall on the entire U.S. coastline is 63 percent, according to the forecast. The average risk is 52 percent.

The forecast was announced at the National Tropical Weather Conference. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration issued its forecast in May.

*Houston Public Media, University of Houston. Copyright © 2018*

## EMPLOYEE NEWS

### Rosie Torres (Investment Operations Analyst I) Celebrates 20 Years at the Fund

A reception was held at the Fund celebrating Rosie Torres' 20th anniversary as an employee of the Houston Firefighters' Relief and Retirement Fund. Trustees and staff gathered with Rosie and her family in honor of this most special occasion. When asked about her time at the Fund, Rosie said "I am grateful for the opportunity to work here. It has been a wonderful 20 years and I am looking forward to the many years to come". Congratulations Rosie!



### Teresa Matlock Celebrates 15 Years



This year marks Teresa's 15th anniversary of dedicated service to the Fund. As Records Manager, she is responsible for the accurate and strategic management of records both received and produced by the Fund. Teresa's attention to detail ensures that our data is protected and that our procedures are compliant with legal and regulatory requirements.

Back in 1979, Teresa joined a professional organization, ARMA International and its Houston Chapter, to expand her knowledge, meet colleagues, gain leadership experience and foster educational benefits for others in the field. Since then, she has served on the board of directors in various positions, including president, for both ARMA and ALHEF, an educational foundation created by ARMA Houston.

Teresa also enjoys volunteering in her community. She has been treasurer of the Houston Heights Woman's Club since 2015. This group promotes charitable and educational programs while offering a diverse networking opportunity. Teresa has also served as treasurer of White Oak Bayou Association since the mid-90's. The conservation efforts of this organization help preserve and restore local wildlife habitats. Through her involvement, Teresa says she can "Think globally, act locally."

Teresa's patience, compassion, problem-solving and analytical skills are only a few of the attributes that make her such an asset to our organization and her community.

### Employee Anniversaries

Name	Title	Celebrating	Start Date
Deborah Hernandez	Conference Center Manager	15 years	September 11, 2003
Adam Smith	Associate Legal Counsel	5 years	July 29, 2013

## HOW TO CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVES IN AUSTIN

### Gov. Greg Abbott

P.O. Box 12428  
Austin, TX 78711  
Phone: 512-463-2000

### Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick

P.O. Box 12068  
Austin, TX 78711  
Phone: 512-463-0001

### Texas House of Representatives

P.O. Box 2910  
Austin, Texas 78768-2910  
Fax: (512) 463-5896

### Texas State Senators

P.O. Box 12068  
Austin, Texas 78711-2068

## 2018 KEY DATES CALENDAR

JULY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

AUGUST						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

SEPTEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Board Meetings are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month.

Office Closings:  
Wednesday, July 4:  
4th of July Holiday

Monday, September 3:  
Labor Day Holiday

Noon Closures:  
Friday, August 31

Save the Date for events at the Greer & Lowdermilk Conference Center, 4225 Interwood N Pkwy, Houston, TX 77032

Long-Term Care Seminar:  
July 24, 2018

Date change! Retiree Coffee:  
September 20, 2018

Adjusting To Retirement Seminar:  
October 30, 2018

## HOUSTON CITY COUNCIL APPROVES \$4.8 BILLION BUDGET

Houston's nearly \$5 billion budget for fiscal year 2019 was approved by the Houston City Council after nearly six hours of discussion. Four council members voted against the budget on Wednesday, including Councilmembers Mike Knox, Jack Christie, Michael Kubosh and Greg Travis.

The budget closes a \$114 million deficit and does so by not cutting jobs or major city services. It also fully funds employee pensions and doesn't include sales of city real estate.

Source: Copyright ©2018 KTRK-TV. All Rights Reserved.

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## QUALIFYING FOR A SOCIAL SECURITY RETIREMENT BENEFIT

Tony L. Pierce – Member Services Education Manager



I am often asked by members, "Since I'm a firefighter, do I get Social Security?" My first response, "It depends", followed by the short answer, "Yes you will if you have earned the required Social Security credits".

So what are credits? Credits are the "building blocks" Social Security uses to find out whether you have the minimum amount of covered work to qualify for each type of Social Security benefits. If you stop working before you have enough credits to qualify for benefits, your credits will stay on your record. If you return to work later on, you can add more credits so that you can qualify. No benefits can be paid if you do not have enough credits.

### How Credits Are Earned

You qualify for Social Security benefits by earning Social Security credits when you work in a job and pay Social Security taxes. As a City of Houston firefighter you do not or did not pay social security tax through your city check; however, you may have in the past had, or currently have employment or you are self-employed and you pay social security taxes. Also, earnings for active duty military service or active duty training have been covered under Social Security since 1957. Social Security has covered inactive duty service in the armed forces reserves (such as weekend drills) since 1988.

Some of you might be now thinking, "I used to earn something called quarters. Is that different?" Before 1978, employers reported your earnings every 3 months and they called credits "quarters of coverage," or QCs. Back then, you got a QC or credit if you earned at least \$50 in a 3-month calendar quarter. In 1978, employers started reporting your earnings just once a year. Credits are now based on your total wages and self-employment income during the year, no matter when you did the actual work. You might work all year to earn four credits, or you might earn enough for all four in a much shorter length of time.

Social Security base credits on the amount of your earnings. They

use your earnings and work history to determine your eligibility for retirement or disability benefits or your family's eligibility for survivors benefits when you die. In 2018, you receive one credit for each \$1,320 of earnings, up to the maximum of four credits per year (earnings of \$5,280). For employment covered by social security, you currently pay a 6.2 percent Social Security tax on up to \$128,400 of your earnings.

Each year the amount of earnings needed for credits goes up slightly as average earnings levels increase. The credits you earn remain on your Social Security record even if you change jobs or have no earnings for a while.

### Can you contribute money to Social Security to earn extra credits?

You cannot get more credits by voluntarily contributing money to Social Security. You can earn credits only by working in a job or your own business that is covered under Social Security.

### How can you get a Social Security Statement that shows a record of your earnings and an estimate of your future benefits?

You can get your personal Social Security Statement online by using your my Social Security account. If you don't yet have an account, you can easily create one. Your online Statement gives you secure and convenient access to your earnings records. It also shows estimates for retirement, disability and survivors benefits you and your family may be eligible for. To set up or use your account to get your online Social Security Statement, go to [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov).

### Will your Social Security retirement or disability benefits be reduced?

So we have established that to qualify for Social Security retirement benefits you need the 40 credits, but calculating what you are to receive is what confuses most firefighters. The Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) can affect how Social Security calculates your retirement or disability benefit. If you work for an employer who doesn't withhold Social Security taxes from your salary, such as City of Houston payroll checks. Any retirement or disability pension you get from that work can reduce your Social Security benefits. We will cover more on WEP in the next issue of the Redline.

### Request for a Social Security Statement (SSA-7004)

Social Security will mail paper Statements to workers age 60 and older three months before your birthday if you don't receive Social Security benefits and don't yet have a my Social Security account. If you don't want to wait for your Social Security Statement to be mailed to you, you may sign up to get your Social Security Statement online. If you would like to receive your Social Security Statement by mail, you may print and complete a "Request For Social Security Statement" (Form SSA-7004) and mail it to the address provided on the form. You should receive your paper Social Security Statement in the mail in four to six weeks.

The most convenient way to contact Social Security anytime, anywhere is to visit [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov). If you were unable to create or encountered a problem with your my Social Security account, you may visit a local office or call 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) for help. If you need to speak to a person, they can answer your calls from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday.

## HFRRF TRUSTEES EXCEED MINIMUM EDUCATIONAL TRAINING (MET) PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

The 83rd Texas Legislature required the Pension Review Board (PRB) to establish a Minimum Educational Training (MET) Program for trustees and system administrators of Texas public retirement systems, including providing online training.

The Core training is designed to cover the fundamental competencies of public pensions necessary for trustees and system administrators to successfully discharge their duties. The core training consist of subjects on Benefits Administration (45 Minutes); Risk Management (1 Hour); Ethics (45 Minutes); Governance (45 Minutes) ; Actuarial Matters (1 Hour and 30 Minutes); Fiduciary Matters (1 Hour) and Investments (1 Hour and 30 Minutes).

State law gives the Board of Trustees responsibility for conducting all Fund business. Today’s increasingly complex educational environment requires that trustees not only understand their roles and responsibilities, but also develop the vision to ensure long-term success for their plans. HFRRF Trustees attend educational conference to build upon core competencies necessary to successfully fulfill their duties on the Board.



*Juliet N. Higgins (Trustee) participating in Blackrock Smart Beta and Scientific Investing Educational Client Conference in San Francisco, Ca.,*

The ten member board consists of five active firefighters, one retired firefighter (elected by other retirees), the City Treasurer or individual performing those functions, the Mayor or an appointed representative of the Mayor and two citizen members elected by the firefighter trustees. These individuals ensure that all assets of the Fund are used for the exclusive benefit of the Fund’s members. Orga-

nizations like National Conference on Public Employee Retirement Systems (NCPERS), The International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans (IFEBP); and the Texas Association of Public Employee Retirement Systems (TEXPERS) to include course work and seminars offered by our clients and many more offer a series of educational programs for new and experienced fund trustees. Our Trustees volunteer many hours of their personal time in service to the Fund. They are truly dedicated men and women.

## IN MEMORY

Our condolences and heartfelt sympathies are extended to the families of the following members who recently passed away:

### FIREFIIGHTERS | RETIRED

NAME	DATE OF DEATH	SERVED HFD
Lawrence R. Fox	June 22, 2018	1964 - 1983
Walter T. Brooks	June 17, 2018	1955 - 1983
Sibley Cochran	June 13, 2018	1973 - 1986
John L. Gunthrie	June 10, 2018	1952 - 1987
Phillip J. Wedgeworth	May 10, 2018	1978 - 2003
Ronald A. Grimstead	May 5, 2018	1980 - 2010
Tim Ham	May 1, 2018	1975 - 2004
James J. McGarry	April 16, 2018	1989 - 2018
Roper C. Hall Jr.	April 15, 2018	1961 - 1981

### BENEFICIARIES

NAME	DATE OF DEATH
Margaret L. Levrier	June 24, 2018
Margueite Starnes	June 7, 2018
Lois Rogers Morris	May 29, 2018
Virginia C. Hosea	May 18, 2018
Clare M. Hendricks	April 17, 2018
Bonita Prazak	April 10, 2018
Johnnye Thompson	April 8, 2018
Mary Dalzell	March 15, 2018
June McBee	March 8, 2018

## 86TH LEGISLATURE: REGULAR SESSION

is set to begin Tuesday, January 8, 2019 through Monday, May 27, 2019. The Legislature of the State of Texas, operating under the biennial system, convenes its regular sessions at noon on the second Tuesday in January of odd-numbered years.



Tuesday, November 6, 2018	General election for federal, state, and county officers
Monday, November 12, 2018	First day legislators and legislators-elect may file bills for the 86th Legislature
Tuesday, January 8, 2019 (1st day)	86th Legislature convenes
Friday, March 8, 2019 (60th day)	Deadline for the unrestricted filing of bills and joint resolutions other than local bills, emergency appropriations, and emergency matters submitted by the governor
Monday, May 27, 2019 (140th day)	Last day of 86th Legislature (sine die)
Sunday, June 16, 2019	Last day the governor may sign or veto bills passed during the regular session

## ANNUAL RETIREE SUMMER BBQ HELD AT THE GREER & LOWDERMILK CONFERENCE CENTER | DATE: MAY 3, 2018

The Fund hosted once again its annual retiree BBQ at the Greer & Lowdermilk Conference Center. This event allows Houston's retired firefighters the opportunity to find out the latest pension news and catch up with some friends.



### *A Message from the Former Chairman, continued from page 1*

While the Fund scrambled to get all of the various administrative processes in place to comply with the statute as it had been modified, our legal team went to work to protect the HFRRF from constitutional defects that were contained in the bill that caused the modifications. I submit to firefighters that the Fund has fully implemented the law and the legal team continues the fight against the unconstitutionality.

While SB2190 (85th legislative session) will be what people remember the era for, there have been many other happenings during this time. The Houston Firefighters' Relief and Retirement Fund blew past the \$4 billion mark for the first time in our history. We have slashed recurring investment fees, we have created operational and administrative improvements, and we have a team in place to continue identifying and making improvements.

While I am stepping down as the Chair, the pension fund board has transitioned the position to Brett Besselman. Brett faces challenges in the days, weeks, months, and years ahead but I have every confidence, based on my observations of him, that he is equipped to meet them. Everyone should surround and support Brett to give him the best opportunity to successfully lead the Board and the Fund. I think he will make us all proud but he cannot do it alone.

To wrap up, I want to thank everyone that has supported me and encouraged me over this past two years. There are so many of you that offered encouragement at just the right time. I also want to thank those of you that have challenged me along the way. You helped my resolve on some issues and stretched my thinking on issues in ways that, perhaps, would have been missed otherwise. It has not been an easy journey – one of the toughest of my life to this point. However, it has been an honor and joy to be your Chair and I wish you all the best.

*David L. Keller, Jr.*

## PENSION PAYMENT DISBURSEMENT SCHEDULE

If you utilize direct deposit, your monthly pension payments are scheduled by the Fund's custodian, Bank of New York/Mellon. Direct deposits should reach your bank account by the last business day of the month; however, if you receive a check, it will be mailed from the custodians Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania location on the third business day before the end of the month. This process takes place according to the schedule established by the custodian. If you are currently receiving a paper check and are interested in the convenience of electronic deposit of your monthly pension payment, please contact our Member Services Representatives at **281.372.5100**.

Month	Mail Date
July	7/27/2018
August	8/29/2018
September	9/26/2018

## HAVING TROUBLE LOGGING IN TO MEMBER DIRECT?



### Tips to remember

1. Password must be alpha numeric with one capital and no special characters Ex.: !, \*, &.
2. Your username must match exactly. Try capitalizing or using all lower case if it's not working.
3. Check the capitalization on your challenge questions. Often-times, members forgot they capitalized/did not capitalize the beginning of a word.
4. Read your challenge questions carefully to ensure you are answering exactly what it asks.
5. If you have difficulty remembering your password try a free password management service such as LastPass, or Dashlane.

## PENSION REVIEW BOARD OFFERS ADVICE TO STRUCTURE RETIREMENT PLAN BENEFITS



The Texas Pension Review Board (PRB) is mandated to oversee all Texas public retirement systems, both state and local, in regard to their actuarial soundness and compliance with state law. Their mission is to provide the State of Texas with the necessary information and recommendations to ensure that our public retirement systems, whose combined assets total in the multi-billions, are financially sound, the benefits are equitable, the systems are properly managed, tax expenditures for employee benefits are kept to a minimum while still providing for those employees, and to expand the knowledge and education of administrators, trustees, and members of Texas public pension funds.

A new set of principles to guide public retirement systems and plan sponsors on how they should structure retirement plan benefits to retain employees.

PRB offers advice to structure retirement plan benefits on their website. According to the document, the principles are intended to “guide and inform public retirement systems and their associated governmental entities on how to structure retirement plans.”

The principles consist of the following:

### The principles consist of the following:

- Public employers should offer a retirement benefit, and participation in the employer-sponsored primary retirement plan should be mandatory.
- Contributions to retirement plans should be consistent with the PRB Pension Funding Guidelines.
- Employers and employees should share the cost of the benefit.
- Retirement plan vesting should occur over a short period, preferably five years or less.
- Benefits should be designed to place employees on the path to

- financial security in retirement in consideration of participation or nonparticipation in Social Security.
- A primary retirement plan should require annuitization of a substantial portion of retirement benefits.
- In the absence of an immediate and heavy financial need, a retirement benefit should be used only for retirement.
- Retirement benefits should be protected against the erosion of the benefit’s value due to inflation; such benefits should not exceed actual inflation and should be funded in accordance with the Pension Review Board’s Pension Funding Guidelines.
- Employers should provide death and disability benefits.
- Employers are encouraged to offer plans that are supplemental to the primary retirement plan.
- Retirement plan governance should represent the interests of all stakeholders, respect fiduciary standards, and be transparent and publicly accountable.
- Retirement plan assets should be pooled and professionally invested according to prudent investor standards, giving careful consideration to cost.

Source: *Texas Pension Review Board*

## MARCIA DUSH REPLACES BOB MAY ON PENSION REVIEW BOARD



Marcia Dush

Marcia Dush of Austin, a member of the Board of Actuaries for the Military Retirement System and Education Benefits Fund for the U.S. Department of Defense, has replaced Bob May on the PRB as the Actuarial Representative. She is a fellow of the Society of Actuaries and the Conference of Consulting Actuaries. Additionally, she is an Enrolled Actuary with the U.S. Department of the Treasury and

a member of the American Academy of Actuaries. Dush received a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and Actuarial Science from Drake University.

Source: *news provided by gov.texas.gov*

## MAYOR TURNER APPOINTS TANTRI ERLINAWATI-EMO AS CITY FINANCE DIRECTOR



Tantri Erlinawati-Emo

Tantri Erlinawati-Emo has been appointed as the City’s Finance Director and was approved by the City Council at its June 27 meeting. Emo served as deputy director of Houston Public Works from January 2017 to September 2017, where she oversaw a \$2 billion budget to improve Houston’s Water and Wastewater System and managed financial involvement with Project Brays, which reduces flooding along Brays Bayou.

She has run the finance department on an interim basis since September.

Source: *The City of Houston*

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Brett Besselman .....	Chairman
Stephen R. Whitehead .....	Vice Chair
Francis (Frank) X. Maher .....	Secretary
David L. Keller, Jr. ....	Trustee
Garry W. Blackmon, Sr. ....	Trustee
Juliet N. Higgins .....	Trustee
Lisa R. Slagle .....	Citizen Member
Albertino “Al” Mays .....	Citizen Member
Arif Rasheed.....	City Treasurer Designee
Earnest W. Wotring.....	Mayor’s Representative
Ralph D. Marsh.....	Executive Director

## ABOUT THE HOUSTON FIREFIGHTERS' RELIEF AND RETIREMENT FUND (HFRRF)

*HFRRF's mission* is to provide a secure retirement benefit plan for members through professional administration, prudent management of system assets, sound investment practices, and prompt and courteous delivery of accurate benefits and useful information to members.

The Fund serves 7,275 active and retired members and has approximately \$4.2 billion in net assets.



### RED LINE

**The Houston Firefighters'  
Relief and Retirement Fund**  
4225 Interwood North Parkway  
Houston, Texas 77032-3866

PRSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
N. HOUSTON, TX  
PERMIT #280



*In May, HFD responded to 29,515 incidents (3,731 Fires & 25,784 EMS).*

*During the week of June 12, HFD responded to 6,690 incidents (865 Fires and 5,825 EMS).*

## AUXILIARY NEWS

### KOLKHORST HONORED BY HOUSTON RETIRED FIREFIGHTER ASSOCIATION



**Sen. Lois W. Kolkhorst (R-Brenham)** has been honored with a legislative appreciation award by the Houston Retired Firefighter Association for her longtime support of firefighters and first-responders in the Texas Legislature.

Source: [www.sealynews.com/stories/senator-kolkhorst-honored-by-houston-retired-firefighter-association,79061](http://www.sealynews.com/stories/senator-kolkhorst-honored-by-houston-retired-firefighter-association,79061)



*Charlie Morton visits HFD Station 50 as part of the Astros Foundation and Gardner Denver Adopt-a-Station Program*

