

**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE**  
**GENERAL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**  
401 NE FOURTH STREET, SUITE 201, FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA  
Thursday, May 11, 2023  
12:00 PM

**BOARD'S COMMUNICATION TO THE CITY COMMISSION**

**Items Requiring City Commission Action**

- None at this time

**Items That May Be of Interest to the City Commission**

- None at this time

**Items Submitted For City Commission Consideration**

- None at this time

Present: Lynn Wenguer, Chairperson  
Jill Prizlee, Vice-Chairperson  
Marian Dollard, Secretary  
Jeri Pryor, Trustee  
Mark Burnam, Trustee  
Bob McComsey, Trustee

Absent: Ex-officio Designee  
Douglas Meade, Trustee

Also Present: William Dahab, Dahab & Associates (via Zoom)  
Glenn Thomas, Board Attorney (via teleconference)  
Nick Schiess, Pension Administrator  
Anne-Marie Lacroix-Vega, Pension Secretary  
Hannah Ross & John Rizzio-Hamilton, Bernstein Litowitz Berger & Grossman

**CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Wenguer called the meeting to order.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was not any public comment.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Board reviewed the draft minutes of the meeting held April 14, 2023. **Mr. Burnam made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held April 14, 2023. Ms. Dollard seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.**

## **APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS**

The Board reviewed the consent items. **Ms. Dollard made a motion to approve the consent items. Mr. McComsey seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.**

## **BENEFIT REVIEW**

### **RETIREMENT**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Service</b>	<b>Type</b>
SMITH, TIMMIE Public Works	4/29/2023	20 Y, 6 M, 30D	Early
DARMANIN, MARK Public Works	6/1/2023	22 Y, 1 M, 23D	Vested Deferred
ROSA, LILLIAN Management	6/1/2023	19 Y, 6 M, 22D	Early Vested Deferred
MILES, VALERIE Finance	5/13/2023	22 Y, 0 M, 4D	Normal
WARE, LAHRONDA Park & Recreation	5/25/2023	32 Y, 6 M, 17D	Normal

### **POST RETIREMENT DEATH**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Date</b>
STOHRER, WILLIAM JR Spouse of MICHAEELEEN STOHRER	4/1/2023

### **DROP ENTRIES**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Service</b>
PUJALS, GUSTAVO Information Technology Services	8/1/2023	27Y 11M 25D

## **INVESTMENT CONSULTANT REPORT: DAHAB ASSOCIATES**

Mr. Dahab provided the Board with a report on the investment portfolio for the quarter ending March 31, 2023. He reported that net investment return for the quarter was 4.2% versus 4.0% for the composite target index. The trailing one-year investment return was -11.9% versus -12.9% for the index, which ranked in the top 23<sup>rd</sup> percentile of the public pension fund universe.

Mr. Dahab discussed market and geopolitical factors, noting that a mild recession was expected.

Mr. Dahab was questioned whether write-downs in private equity or real estate have occurred. He responded that he was unaware of write-downs. He explained that for the current real state funds, the commercial real estate sector might suffer a downturn, which should be offset by gains in the multifamily and industrial sectors.

Mr. Dahab was questioned regarding any areas of concern. He responded that while the Polen Capital Management portfolio had underperformed it was a very concentrated portfolio that has satisfactory long-term performance. He concluded his report with a review of the asset allocation, noting all was satisfactory.

Mr. Dahab recommended raising any required cash from the State Street Global Advisors Emerging Market Index Fund.

### **CLOSED DOOR SESSION SECURITIES CLASS ACTION RYDER SYSTEMS**

The regular meeting adjourned at 1:15 PM for a closed-door session to discuss and consider settlement negotiations in the matter of a pending securities class action against Ryder Systems. Hannah Ross and John Rizzio-Hamilton joined the meeting via Zoom representing legal counsel Bernstein Litowitz Berger & Grossman LLP to present a settlement offer. They discussed the merits of the offer along with the status of the other two co-lead plaintiffs in the action. Based upon the recommendation of legal counsel, Ms. Pryor approved the proposed settlement. Mr. Burnam seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously by the Board. The closed-door session concluded at 1:43 PM and the regular meeting resumed.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

There was not any new business to consider.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

There was not any old business to consider.

### **ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

Mr. Thomas provided another update on State legislation affecting the Pension Plan. He advised that the legislation will necessitate a minor update to the Investment Policy Statement and a report to be filed with the State by December in order to be in compliance. Additionally, the legislation might ultimately impact the Pension Plan current banking institutions.

### **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Schiess provided a financial report including account and benefit payment reconciliations, fulfilled and pending capital calls, funding status of the alternative investments, monthly fund asset mix and miscellaneous organizational changes.

Mr. Schiess reminded the Trustees to file their annual Statements of Financial Interests by the deadline of July 1, 2023.

Mr. Schiess reported that the custodian, Comerica Bank, transitioned its platform effective May 1, 2023 and there were not any trading or other issues reported.

Mr. Schiess reported that an independent medical examination for disability applicant Jennifer Lowell was scheduled for June 12, 2023.

### **PLEASURE OF THE BOARD**

Mr. McComsey expressed general concerns over the risk and fragility within the banking system. He expressed concerns again regarding using smaller regional banks like Comerica Bank and KeyBank when larger banks that are too large to fail are available. He noted that both banks had suffered a significant decline in market capitalization. It was noted that much of the pension assets were custodied with the financial institutions of various commingled funds and those custodied at Comerica Bank were titled in the plan's name and held separate from the bank's general assets. Mr. Schiess explained that the funds were wired to KeyBank just a few days before benefit payments were issued. He reminded the Board that the very core business of the plan was to issue benefit payments and KeyBank performed the task exceptionally well. Mr. Schiess discussed further their merits and expressed grave concerns over find a suitable replacement. He advised that the known risk of poorly performing payor of benefit payments far exceeded the only potential financial risk for a few days. It was noted that new State legislation might ultimately impact the Pension Plan current banking institutions, which should settle out by the end of the year. The Board invited a representative from Comerica Bank to the next meeting to discuss this matter in more detail. Ms. Wenguer reported that the Police & Fire Pension Plan used the custodial services of Northern Trust.

### **BOARD COMMUNICATION TO THE CITY COMMISSION**

There was nothing to communicate to the City Commission.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 2:09 PM.