

# APPROVED

## MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF RETIREMENT LOS ANGELES COUNTY EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION

300 N. LAKE AVENUE, SUITE 810, PASADENA, CA 91101

9:00 A.M., WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2024

*This meeting was conducted by the Board of Retirement both in person and by teleconference under California Government Code Section 54953 (e).*

*Any person may view the meeting in person at LACERA's offices or online at <https://LACERA.com/leadership/board-meetings>.*

*The Board may take action on any item on the agenda, and agenda items may be taken out of order.*

### TRUSTEES PRESENT:

Shawn R. Kehoe, Chair

Les Robbins, Vice Chair  
(Teleconference Due to Just Cause under Section 54953 (f))

Ronald Okum, Secretary (Left the meeting at 1:17 p.m.)

Nancy Durazo

Vivian H. Gray

Jason E. Green (Left the meeting at 1:22 p.m.)

JP Harris (Alternate Retired)

Wayne Moore

Keith Knox

David Ryu (Joined the meeting at 9:20 a.m.)

Antonio Sanchez (Left the meeting at 12:30 p.m.)

## STAFF ADVISORS AND PARTICIPANTS

Santos H. Kreimann, Chief Executive Officer

Luis A. Lugo, Deputy Chief Executive Officer

JJ Popowich, Assistant Executive Officer

Laura Guglielmo, Assistant Executive Officer

Jonathan Grabel, Chief Investment Officer

Steven P. Rice, Chief Counsel

Francis J. Boyd, Senior Staff Counsel

Jasmine Bath, Senior Staff Counsel

Louis Gittens, Benefits Division Manager

Cassandra Smith, Retiree Healthcare Director

Dr. Glenn Ehresmann, Medical Advisor

Vincent Lim, Disability Litigation Manager

Allison Barrett, Senior Staff Counsel

Chaitanya Errande, Information Security Officer

Tatiana Bayer, Member Services Division Manager

Barry W. Lew, Legislative Affairs Officer

Carly Ntoya, Human Resources Director

Tamara Caldwell, Disability Retirement Manager

Vickie Neely, Disability Retirement Specialist Supervisor

STAFF ADVISORS AND PARTICIPANTS (Continued)

Kerri Wilson, Disability Retirement Specialist Supervisor

Hernan Barrientos, Disability Retirement Specialist Supervisor

Ricardo Salinas, Disability Retirement Specialist Supervisor

Janet Jennings, Milliman Consulting Actuary

Robert Schmidt, Milliman Consulting Actuary

Rebecca Walker, Kaplan & Walker

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Kehoe at 9:09 a.m. in the Board Room of Gateway Plaza.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Durazo led the Trustees and staff in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. RATIFICATION OF OFFICERS

**A. Board Officers – 2024 Calendar Year**

Recommendation as submitted by Santos H. Kreimann, Chief Executive Officer: That the Board ratify its slate of board officers who will serve their term in the 2024 calendar year under the Board's Board Officer Rotation Policy: Shawn Kehoe as Chair, Les Robbins as Vice Chair, and Ronald Okum as Secretary.

(Memo dated December 17, 2023)

Trustee Knox made a motion, Trustee Sanchez seconded, to ratify the slate of officers. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Durazo, Gray, Green, Knox, Moore, Okum, Robbins, Sanchez

Absent: Ryu

#### IV. ELECTIONS OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Election of Trustees to Joint Organizational Governance Committee (1 Trustee) and Audit Committee (3 Trustees)

Trustee Kehoe nominated Trustee Gray. Hearing no other nominations, the nominations were closed. Chair Kehoe announced that Trustee Gray was elected to the position of Joint Organizational Governance Committee Member for 2024.

Trustees Moore and Gray were nominated by Trustee Kehoe and Trustee Durazo was nominated by Trustee Knox to the position of Audit Committee Member. Hearing no other nominations, the nominations were closed. Chair Kehoe announced that Trustees Moore, Gray, and Durazo were elected to the position of Audit Committee Member for 2024.

#### V. PROCEDURE FOR TELECONFERENCE MEETING ATTENDANCE UNDER AB 2449, California Government Code Section 54953 (e)

- A. Just Cause
- B. Action on Emergency Circumstance Requests
- C. Statement of Persons Present at AB 2449 Teleconference Locations

A physical quorum was present at the noticed meeting location. There was one request received from Trustee Robbins to attend by teleconference for Just Cause (A) contagious illness. Trustee Robbins confirmed that there were no individuals 18 years or older present at the teleconference location. No requests were received for Emergency Circumstances (B).

#### VI. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 6, 2023

Trustee Gray made a motion, Trustee Knox seconded, to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 6, 2023. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Durazo, Gray, Green, Knox, Okum, Robbins, Sanchez

Abstain: Moore

Absent: Ryu

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

LACERA member, Carlton Chambers addressed the Board regarding his disability retirement application (5310B).

VIII. EXECUTIVE UPDATE

A. LACERA All Stars

Mr. Popowich announced the winners for the month: Paola Johns, Vicki Chew, Sevag Antabian and Edward Wong. The Web Watcher was Ted Granger and there were no winners for Rideshare.

B. Member Spotlight

Mr. Popowich recognized LACERA member, Gloria D'Orazi.

C. Chief Executive Officer's Report

(Mr. Ryu joined the meeting at 9:20 a.m.)

Mr. Kreimann provided a brief presentation on the Chief Executive Officer's Report and answered questions from the Board.

IX. DISABILITY RETIREMENT APPLICATIONS ON CONSENT CALENDAR

Safety Law Enforcement  
Service-Connected Disability Applications

On a motion by Trustee Kehoe, seconded by Trustee Green, the Board of Retirement approved a service-connected disability retirement for the following named employees who were found to be disabled for the performance of their duties and have met the burden of proof.

APPLICATION NO.

244E

245E\*

246E

247E

NAME

BUSH, JAMES

ROSSO, ANDREW H.

DUARTE, DENNIS J.

SAVAY, JOHN J.

\*Grant SCD – Employer Cannot Accommodate

## IX. DISABILITY RETIREMENT APPLICATIONS ON CONSENT CALENDAR

Safety Law Enforcement (Continued)  
 Service-Connected Disability Applications

<u>APPLICATION NO.</u>	<u>NAME</u>
248E*	SECRIST, JERALD L.
249E**	GUTIERREZ, GREGORY R.
250E	KONECNY, MICHAEL S.
251E**	POWERS, JAMES C.
252E	NELSON, PAMELA A.
253E**	BRADY, OLIVIA C.
254E	MASON, RONNIE F.
255E	BURROW, JEFFREY D.
256E*	OJEDA, SARA
257E	LONG, DAVID B.
258E	PARTIDA, JANISA Z.
259E	GEIER, MICHAEL C.
260E*	WILLIAMS, CLIFTON S.
261E*	BRINGAS, ASHLEY L.
262E	KUWATA, KEVIN R.
263E	JUNGK, MARIAN H.
264E	MARRON, SCOTT P. (DEC'D)
265E	CURRY, ANDRE S.
266E**	CHAU, VERONICA
267E	CAMPOS, MIGUEL
268E	MCKNIGHT, GREGORY D.
269E	PARTIDA, PABLO
270E	SHI, YUNA
271E	YEGAVIAN, BEDROS R.
272E	COBOS, MARLENE V.
273E	FINCHUM., ROBERT E., JR.
274E	RUGGIERO, TIMOTHY W.
275E	MARTINEZ, ANGELA R.
276E*	KEELING, CHRISTOPHER D.
277E	FUTRELL, CHRISTIAN J.
278E	GARCIA, SANDRA L.

\*Grant SCD – Retroactive

\*\*Grant SCD – Employer Cannot Accommodate

IX. DISABILITY RETIREMENT APPLICATIONS ON CONSENT CALENDAR

Safety Law Enforcement (Continued)

Service-Connected Disability Applications

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Durazo, Gray, Kehoe, Knox, Moore, Okum, Robbins,  
RyuSanchez

Safety Fire, Lifeguards

Service-Connected Disability Applications

On a motion by Trustee Green, seconded by Trustee Okum, the Board of Retirement approved a service-connected disability retirement for the following named employees who were found to be disabled for the performance of their duties and have met the burden of proof.

APPLICATION NO.

NAME

1767B

PEREZ, HARRY

1768B

WISMAN, CURTIS R.

1769B

CLARK, DENNIS L.

1770B

LAIDLAW, KEVIN L.

1771B

HERNANDEZ, VICTOR M.

1772B

LITTLE, DARRYL L.

1773B

LININGER, DARIN R.

1774B

ROSSI, JOHN M.

1775B\*

HARKINS, JEREMY G.

1776B

OROSCO, JEFFREY A.

1777B

BRANDELLI, RICK A.

1778B\*\*

VILLALTA-AYALA, ISMAEL M.  
(DEC'D)

1779B

TERRY, CRAIG

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Durazo, Gray, Green, Knox, Moore, Okum, Robbins, Ryu,  
Sanchez

\*Granted SCD – Retroactive

\*\*Granted SCD – Survivor Benefit

IX. DISABILITY RETIREMENT APPLICATIONS ON CONSENT CALENDAR

General Members

Service-Connected Disability Applications

On a motion by Trustee Knox, seconded by Trustee Okum, the Board of Retirement made a motion to approve a service-connected disability retirement for the following named employees who were found to be disabled for the performance of their duties and have met the burden of proof.

<u>APPLICATION NO.</u>	<u>NAME</u>
2682C	MOTEN, CHERYL M.
2683C*	DE LA ROSA, NICOLAS, JR.
2684C*	ROBERTS, MICHAEL D.
2685C*	WILLIAMS, LYNETTE F.
2686C**	CHAVEZ, RICARDO M.
2687C***	RAZO, NANCY G.
2688C*	GARCIA VALENZUELA, LETICIA
2689C	PAGLINAWAN, RAMON A.
2690C***	HAWKINS, SHEILA D.
2691C	ADAMS, ANTHONY E.
2692C	TYLER, ARTHUR W.
2693C	ROBERTS, KELLY S.
2694C*	GOVAN, LISA A.

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Durazo, Gray, Green, Knox, Moore, Okum, Robbins, Ryu, Sanchez

\*Granted SCD – Employer Cannot Accommodate

\*\*Granted SCD – Retroactive

\*\*\*Granted SCD – Retroactive Employer Cannot Accommodate



IX. DISABILITY RETIREMENT APPLICATIONS ON CONSENT CALENDAR

General Members

Nonservice-Connected Disability Applications

On a motion by Trustee Knox, seconded by Trustee Okum, the Board of Retirement made a motion to approve a nonservice-connected disability retirement for the following named employee who was found to be disabled for the performance of her duties and has met the burden of proof.

APPLICATION NO.  
4501

NAME  
KING, BRANDI N.

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Durazo, Gray, Green, Knox, Moore, Okum, Robbins, Ryu, Sanchez

X. CONSENT ITEMS

On a motion by Trustee Knox, Trustee Okum seconded, to approve consent items A-H. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Durazo, Gray, Green, Knox, Moore, Okum, Robbins, Ryu, Sanchez

A. **H.R. 957 – Public Safety Retirees Healthcare Protection Act of 2023**

Recommendation as submitted by Les Robbins, Chair, Insurance, Benefits and Legislative Committee: That the Board adopt a “Watch” position on H.R. 957, which would enact the “Public Safety Retirees Healthcare Protection Act of 2023.”

(Memo dated December 20, 2023)

X. CONSENT ITEMS (Continued)

B. **Proposed Changes to Board of Retirement Policy for Recovery of Member Overpayments and Underpayments**

Recommendation as submitted by Alan Bernstein, Chair, Operations Oversight Committee: That the Board approve and adopt the changes to its Policy for Recovery of Member Overpayments and Underpayments as discussed in this memo and set forth in Exhibit B. (Memo dated December 21, 2023)

C. **Ethics and Compliance Program Charter**

Recommendation as submitted by Alan Bernstein, Chair, Operations Oversight Committee: That the Board of Retirement (1) provide input on the proposed Ethics and Compliance Program Charter, which is a goal of the Board's approved Strategic Plan, and (2) forward the Charter to the Joint Organizational Governance Committee for further consideration and recommendation. (Memo dated December 26, 2023)

D. **Ratification of Service Retirement and Survivor Benefit Application Approvals**

Recommendation that the Board approve the service retirements and survivor benefit applications received as of December 26, 2023, along with any retirement rescissions and/or changes approved at last month's Board meeting. (Memo dated December 26, 2023)

E. **Appeal(s) for the Board of Retirement's Meeting of January 3, 2024**

Recommendation as submitted by Tamara Caldwell, Division Manager, Disability Retirement Services: That the Board grant the appeal(s) and request(s) for administrative hearing received from the following member(s) and direct the Disability Retirement Services Manager to refer each case to a referee: Leanne M. Steinhaus and Syntoshia L. Cunningham. (Memo dated December 21, 2023)

F. **Dismiss with Prejudice the Appeal of Danny T. Han**

Recommendation as submitted by Tamara Caldwell, Division Manager, Disability Retirement Services: That the Board dismiss with prejudice Danny T. Han's appeal for a service-connected disability retirement. (Memo dated December 20, 2023)

X. CONSENT ITEMS (Continued)

G. **Service Provider Invoice Approval Request - Martin Schlusberg, M.D. c/o National Disability Evaluations**

Recommendation as submitted by Tamara Caldwell, Division Manager, Disability Retirement Services: That the Board approve the service provider invoice for Martin Schlusberg, M.D. c/o National Disability Evaluations. (Memo dated December 21, 2023)  
(Attachment is Confidential)

H. **Service Provider Invoice Approval Request - Neil Ghodadra, M.D.**

Recommendation as submitted by Tamara Caldwell, Division Manager, Disability Retirement Services: That the Board approve the service provider invoice for Neil Ghodadra, M.D.  
(Memo dated December 27, 2023)

XI. EXCLUDED FROM CONSENT ITEMS

There were no items excluded from Consent items.

XII. NON-CONSENT ITEMS

A. **WBCP – Professional Recruiting Services**

Recommendation as submitted by Santos H. Kreimann, Chief Executive Officer: That the Board approve the amendment of the current master contract with WBCP, Inc. (WBCP) for professional recruiting services to increase the contract value for FY 23-24 from \$150,000 to \$300,000 and delegate authority to pay related invoices.  
(Memo dated December 22, 2023)

On a motion by Trustee Green, seconded by Trustee Okum, to approve staff's recommendation.

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Durazo, Gray, Green, Knox, Moore, Okum, Ryu, Sanchez

No: Robbins

### XIII. REPORTS

A. **2023 Triennial Actuarial Projects – Los Angeles County Other Post-Employment Benefit (OPEB) Program Educational Session**

Santos H. Kreimann, Chief Executive Officer

Ted Granger, Interim Chief Financial Officer

Robert Schmidt, Consulting Actuary, Milliman

Janet Jennings, Consulting Actuary, Milliman

(Presentation) (Memo dated December 18, 2023)

Mr. Schmidt and Ms. Jennings provided a presentation and answered questions from the Board.

This item was received and filed.

B. **Education on Ethics and Compliance Governance, Program Structure, and Program Charter**

Steven P. Rice, Chief Counsel

Allison E. Barrett, Senior Staff Counsel

Rebecca Walker, Kaplan & Walker LLP

(Presentation) (Memo dated December 26, 2023)

Mr. Rice, Ms. Barrett, and Ms. Walker provided a presentation and answered questions from the Board.

This item was received and filed.

C. **2023 Audit Committee Annual Report**

Onyx Jones, 2023 Audit Committee Chair

Richard P. Bendall, Chief Audit Executive

(For Information Only) (Memo dated December 15, 2023)

This item was received and filed.

D. **Application Processing Time Snapshot Reports**

Tamara Caldwell, Division Manager, Disability Retirement Services

(For Information Only) (Memo dated December 22, 2023)

This item was received and filed.

XIII. REPORTS (Continued)

E. **Monthly Trustee Travel & Education Reports – November 2023**

Ted Granger, Interim Chief Financial Officer

(Public memo dated December 21, 2023) (Confidential memo dated December 21, 2023 - Includes Pending Travel)

This item was received and filed.

F. **FPPC Formal Advice Letter**

Steven P. Rice, Chief Counsel

(For Information Only) (Memo dated December 26, 2023)

This item was received and filed.

G. **December 2023 Fiduciary Counsel Contract and Billing Report**

Steven P. Rice, Chief Counsel

(For Information Only) (Memo dated December 26, 2023)

(Privileged and Confidential/Attorney-Client Communication/Attorney Work Product)

This item was received and filed.

XIV. ITEMS FOR STAFF REVIEW

Trustee Kehoe requested that staff provide the Board with additional information regarding LACERA's membership in the outside districts.

XV. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

There were no items to report.

XVI. GOOD OF THE ORDER

(For Information Purposes Only)

The Board welcomed the new Trustees and congratulated the new officers.

In open session, before Executive Session began, Chief Counsel stated, under the Brown Act, that Item XVIII(B) relates to the employment claim of Charlotte Nakhla.

XVII. DISABILITY RETIREMENT CASES TO BE HELD IN CLOSED SESSION

A. Applications for Disability

(Trustee Sanchez left the meeting at 12:30 p.m.)

APPLICATION NO. & NAME AND BOARD ACTION

5405B – YOLONDA D. FREEMAN

On a motion by Trustee Knox, seconded by Trustee Okum, to deny a service-connected disability retirement since the employer can accommodate.

Ms. Gray made a substitute motion, Mr. Moore seconded, to return to staff for additional information. The makers of the motion withdrew their motion.

The original motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Durazo, Green, Harris, Knox, Okum, Sanchez

No: Gray, Moore, Ryu

Absent: Sanchez

XVIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

(Trustee Okum left the meeting at 1:17 p.m.) (Trustee Green left the meeting at 1:22 p.m.)

A. Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation  
(Pursuant to Paragraph (1) of Subdivision (d) of California Government Code Section 54956.9)

*LACERA v, County of Los Angeles,*  
LASC Case No. 21STCP03475,  
Court of Appeal Case No. B32697  
(For Information Only) (Memo dated December 27, 2023)

There was nothing to report.

XVIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION (Continued)

- B. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation  
Significant Exposure to Litigation  
(Pursuant to Paragraph (2) of Subdivision (d) of California  
Government Code Section 54956.9)

Number of Cases: 1

(For Information Only) (Memo dated December 19, 2023)

There was nothing to report.

XIX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was  
adjourned at 1:25 p.m.



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RONALD OKUM, SECRETARY



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SHAWN R. KEHOE, CHAIR