

# LIVE VIRTUAL BOARD MEETING



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**Attention:** Public comment requests must be submitted via email to [PublicComment@lacera.com](mailto:PublicComment@lacera.com) no later than 5:00 p.m. the day before the scheduled meeting.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION  
300 N. LAKE AVENUE, SUITE 650, PASADENA, CA

# AGENDA

## A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF RETIREMENT

### LOS ANGELES COUNTY EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION

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

9:00 A.M., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2021

This meeting will be conducted by the Board of Retirement by teleconference under the Governor's Executive Order No. N-29-20.

Any person may view the meeting online at  
[https://members.lacera.com/lmpublic/live\\_stream.xhtml](https://members.lacera.com/lmpublic/live_stream.xhtml)

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

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
  - A. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 14, 2021
- III. PUBLIC COMMENT

(\*You may submit written public comments by email to [PublicComment@lacera.com](mailto:PublicComment@lacera.com). Please include the agenda number and meeting date in your correspondence. Correspondence will be made part of the official record of the meeting. Please submit your written public comments or documentation as soon as possible and up to the close of the meeting.

You may also request to address the Boards. A request to speak must be submitted via email to [PublicComment@lacera.com](mailto:PublicComment@lacera.com) no later than 5:00 p.m. the day before the scheduled meeting. Please include your contact information, agenda item, and meeting date so that we may contact you with information and instructions as to how to access the Board meeting as a speaker.)
- IV. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER UPDATE  
(For Information Purposes Only)
- V. DISABILITY RETIREMENT APPLICATIONS ON CONSENT CALENDAR

VI. CONSENT ITEMS

- A. Recommendation as submitted by Ricki Contreras, Division Manager, Disability Retirement Services: That the Board grant the appeals and request for an administrative hearing for applicant Daljit S. Arora.  
(Memo dated January 28, 2021)

VII. REPORTS

- A. For Information Only as submitted by Ricki Contreras, Division Manager, Disability Retirement Services, regarding the Application Processing Time Snapshot Reports. (Memo dated January 29, 2021)
- B. For Information Only as submitted by Francis J. Boyd, Senior Staff Counsel and Ricki Contreras, Division Manager, Disability Retirement Services, regarding the Physician Statement for Disability Requirement.  
(Memo dated January 29, 2021)

VIII. ITEMS FOR STAFF REVIEW

IX. GOOD OF THE ORDER

(For information purposes only)

X. DISABILITY RETIREMENT CASES TO BE HELD IN CLOSED SESSION

A. Applications for Disability

B. Disability Retirement Appeals

C. Staff Recommendations

- 1. Recommendation as submitted by Jason E. Waller, Senior Staff Counsel: That the Board (1) find that David J. Chavez delayed filing his application for disability retirement because he was unable to ascertain the permanency of his incapacity; (2) that his application is deemed filed on the day after the last day of regular compensation (retroactive) in accordance with Government Code section 31724; and (3) that he is entitled to the option of an earlier effective date.  
(Memo dated January 21, 2021)

- 2. For Information Only as submitted by Ricki Contreras, Division Manager, Disability Retirement Services, regarding the 2020 Quarterly Reports of Paid Invoices – 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter. (Memo dated January 28, 2021)

February 11, 2021

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## XI. ADJOURNMENT

*Documents subject to public disclosure that relate to an agenda item for an open session of the Board of Retirement that are distributed to members of the Board of Retirement less than 72 hours prior to the meeting will be available for public inspection at the time they are distributed to a majority of the Board of Retirement Members at LACERA's offices at 300 N. Lake Avenue, Suite 820, Pasadena, CA 91101, during normal business hours of 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.*

*\*Requests for reasonable modification or accommodation of the telephone public access and Public Comments procedures stated in this agenda from individuals with disabilities, consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, may call the Board Offices at (626) 564-6000, Ext. 4401/4402 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday or email [PublicComment@lacera.com](mailto:PublicComment@lacera.com), but no later than 48 hours prior to the time the meeting is to commence.*

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

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

9:00 A.M., THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2021

This meeting was conducted by the Board of Retirement by teleconference under the Governor's Executive Order No. N-29-20.

PRESENT: Alan Bernstein, Chair

Vivian H. Gray, Vice Chair

Gina Zapanta, Secretary

JP Harris (Alternate Retired)

Shawn R. Kehoe

Keith Knox

Wayne Moore

Ronald Okum

William Pryor (Alternate Safety) (Joined the meeting at 9:34 a.m.)

Les Robbins

STAFF ADVISORS AND PARTICIPANTS

Santos H. Kreimann, Chief Executive Officer

John Popowich, Assistant Executive Officer

Steven P. Rice, Chief Counsel

Francis J. Boyd, Senior Staff Counsel

Vincent Lim, Disability Litigation Manager

STAFF ADVISORS AND PARTICIPANTS (Continued)

Allison E. Barrett, Senior Staff Counsel

Eugenia W. Der, Senior Staff Counsel

Jason E. Waller, Senior Staff Counsel

Ricki Contreras, Disability Retirement Services Manager

Tamara Caldwell, Disability Retirement Specialist Supervisor

Hernan Barrientos, Disability Retirement Specialist Supervisor

Kerri Wilson, Disability Retirement Specialist Supervisor

Ricardo Salinas, Disability Retirement Specialist Supervisor

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Bernstein at 9:00 a.m. in the Board Room of Gateway Plaza.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 10, 2020

Mr. Kehoe made a motion, Mr. Moore seconded, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of December 10, 2020. The motion passed (roll call) with Messrs. Knox, Bernstein, Okum, Moore, Kehoe, Robbins, Santos, Ms. Zapanta and Ms. Gray voting yes.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no requests from the public.

IV. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER UPDATE  
(For Information Purposes Only)

Mr. Kreimann shared that the Deputy Chief Executive Officer job bulletin has been posted. Alliance Resource Consulting LLC is assisting with the recruitment and selection process. In addition, he shared that Los Angeles County will be rolling out the “Know Your Tier” Vaccine Public Awareness Campaign across the County. As information becomes available, it will be shared with the Trustees and LACERA members. Lastly, a three-day Disaster Recovery Plan exercise and Business Continuity Plan exercise was recently conducted, and a presentation of the results will be provided to the Operations Oversight Committee.

V. DISABILITY RETIREMENT APPLICATIONS ON CONSENT CALENDAR

Safety Law Enforcement  
Service-Connected Disability Applications

On a motion by Mr. Kehoe, seconded by Mr. 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. The motion passed (roll call) with Messrs. Knox, Bernstein, Okum, Robbins, Moore, Kehoe, Santos, Ms. Gray and Ms. Zapanta voting yes.

<u>APPLICATION NO.</u>	<u>NAME</u>
373D	JAMES F. CORRIGAN
374D*	DAVID W. EVANS
375D	MARK S. CLAAHSEN

\*Granted SCD – Employer Cannot Accommodate

V. DISABILITY RETIREMENT APPLICATIONS ON CONSENT CALENDAR

Safety Law Enforcement (Continued)  
Service-Connected Disability Applications

<u>APPLICATION NO.</u>	<u>NAME</u>
376D	CHRISTOPHER J. MCMASTER
377D	MICHAEL L. HIATT
378D*	SEAN W. BURKE
379D*	JAMES P. WOLAK
380D	MILTON N. MURPHY
381D	JOSEPH A. ACEVEDO
382D*	VALENTINE ROSARIO, III
383D**	DENNIS A. CLARK, JR.
384D	KENNETH W. BROWN
385D**	JAIME GONZALEZ

\*Granted SCD – Employer Cannot Accommodate

\*\*Granted SCD - Retroactive



V. DISABILITY RETIREMENT APPLICATIONS ON CONSENT CALENDAR

Safety Fire, Lifeguards  
Service-Connected Disability Applications

On a motion by Mr. Kehoe, seconded by Mr. 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. The motion passed (roll call) with Messrs. Knox, Bernstein, Okum, Moore, Robbins, Pryor, Santos, Ms. Gray and Ms. Zapanta voting yes.

<u>APPLICATION NO.</u>	<u>NAME</u>
1311B	DAVID B. CRAIG
1312B	ANDREW M. DOYLE
1313B*	DENNIS J. DIMARZIO
1314B	SCOTT T. TUCKER
1315B	JOSEPH A. FELANDO
1316B	STEVEN M. AUGUSTINE
1317B	RAUL J. GARCIA
1318B	STEVEN M. STRAIGHT
1319B	JEFFREY M. RANKIN
1320B	RICHARD D. HALL

\*Granted SCD – Employer Cannot Accommodate

V. DISABILITY RETIREMENT APPLICATIONS ON CONSENT CALENDAR

General Members

Service-Connected Disability Applications

On a motion by Mr. Okum, seconded by Mr. Knox, 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. The motion passed (roll call) with Messrs. Knox, Bernstein, Okum, Moore, Robbins, Kehoe, Santos, Ms. Gray and Ms. Zapanta voting yes.

<u>APPLICATION NO.</u>	<u>NAME</u>
2158C*	SURINDER KAUR
2159C**	SONYA J. WALKER
2160C***	JEE ANNA J. LEE
2161C*	EDNA M. ROCHES
2162C**	AMBER N. OBREGON
2163C**	CHANTE N. YOUNG
2164C****	LYNNE A. GIPSON
2165C*	MARIVIC RECINTO
2166C**	MISTY L. ANDERSON
2167C	INCORRECT CASE

\* Granted SCD – Employer Cannot Accommodate

\*\* Granted SCD – Salary Supplement

\*\*\* Granted SCD – Retroactive

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

V. DISABILITY RETIREMENT APPLICATIONS ON CONSENT CALENDAR

General Members (Continued)  
Service-Connected Disability Applications

<u>APPLICATION NO.</u>	<u>NAME</u>
2168C*	LESLIE D. GARCIA
2169C**	KAMEKA N. TURNER

VI. CONSENT ITEMS

- A. Recommendation as submitted by Ricki Contreras, Division Manager, Disability Retirement Services: That the Board grant the appeals and request for an administrative hearing for applicants Sharinna Johnson and Rebecca Ramirez. (Memo dated December 31, 2020)

Ms. Gray made a motion, Mr. Knox seconded, to approve staff's recommendation. The motion passed (roll call) with Messrs. Knox, Bernstein, Okum, Moore, Kehoe, Robbins, Santos, Ms. Zapanta and Ms. Gray voting yes.

VII. REPORTS

- A. For Information Only as submitted by Ricki Contreras, Division Manager, Disability Retirement Services, regarding the Application Processing Time Snapshot Reports. (Memo dated December 31, 2020)

Ms. Contreras was present to answer questions from the Board.

VIII. ITEMS FOR STAFF REVIEW

There was nothing to report.

\*Granted SCD Retroactive - Employer Cannot Accommodate

\*\*Granted SCD – Employer Cannot Accommodate

IX. GOOD OF THE ORDER  
(For information purposes only)

Mr. Harris thanked the Disability Retirement Services staff for the work and efforts.

X. DISABILITY RETIREMENT CASES TO BE HELD IN CLOSED SESSION

A. Applications for Disability (Mr. Pryor arrived at 9:34 a.m.)

APPLICATION NO. & NAME

BOARD ACTION

5159B –MISTY J. RITTER

Mr. Kehoe made a motion, Mr. Knox seconded, to deny a service-connected disability retirement and find the applicant not permanently incapacitated. The motion passed (roll call) with Messrs. Knox, Walsh, Bernstein, Kehoe, Robbins, Santos, Ms. Gray and Ms. Zapanta voting yes. Mr. Okum was experiencing technical difficulty.

5160B – SATYA VASHISHTHA\*

Mr. Kehoe made a motion, Ms. Gray seconded, to deny and find the application untimely under Government Code Section 31722. The motion passed (roll call) with Messrs. Knox, Bernstein, Okum, Moore, Kehoe, Robbins, Santos, Ms. Gray and Ms. Zapanta voting yes.

5161B – MATTHEW J. BRADY

Mr. Kehoe made a motion, Mr. Okum seconded, to deny and find the application untimely under Government Code Section 31722. The motion passed (roll call) with Messrs. Knox, Bernstein, Okum, Moore, Kehoe, Robbins, Santos, Ms. Gray and Ms. Zapanta voting yes.

\*Applicant Present

X. DISABILITY RETIREMENT CASES TO BE HELD IN CLOSED SESSION

A. Applications for Disability (Continued)

APPLICATION NO. & NAME

BOARD ACTION

5162B – 2019-4SG

Mr. Kehoe made a motion, Mr. Okum seconded, to grant a nonservice-connected disability retirement pursuant to Government Code Section 31720 and 31724. The motion passed (roll call) with Messrs. Knox, Bernstein, Okum, Moore, Kehoe, Robbins, Santos, Ms. Gray and Ms. Zapanta voting yes.

The motion was reconsidered without objection.

Mr. Kehoe made a motion, Mr. Okum seconded, to grant a nonservice connected disability retirement pursuant to Government Code Section 31720 and 31724 retroactive. The motion passed (roll call) with Messrs. Knox, Bernstein, Okum, Moore, Kehoe, Robbins, Santos, Ms. Gray and Ms. Zapanta voting yes.

5029B – ANGELINA LOVE

Ms. Gray made a motion, Mr. Okum seconded, to deny a service-connected disability retirement and find the applicant not permanently incapacitated. The motion passed (roll call) with Messrs. Knox, Bernstein, Okum, Moore, Kehoe, Robbins, Santos, Ms. Gray and Ms. Zapanta voting yes.

X. DISABILITY RETIREMENT CASES TO BE HELD IN CLOSED SESSION

A. Applications for Disability (Continued)

APPLICATION NO. & NAME

BOARD ACTION

5147B – LAURA C. GUILLEN

Mr. Kehoe made a motion, Ms. Gray seconded, to grant a service-connected disability retirement pursuant to Government Code Section 31720. The motion passed (roll call) with Messrs. Knox, Bernstein, Moore, Okum, Kehoe, Robbins, Santos, Ms. Gray and Ms. Zapanta voting yes.

5148B – JAMES G. ROSS, JR.

Mr. Kehoe made a motion, Ms. Gray seconded, to grant a service-connected disability retirement pursuant to Government Code Section 31720. The motion passed (roll call) with Messrs. Knox, Bernstein, Okum, Moore, Kehoe, Robbins, Santos, Ms. Gray and Ms. Zapanta voting yes.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Public Employee Performance Evaluation  
(Pursuant to Paragraph (1) of Subdivision (b) of California Government Code Section 54957)

Title: Chief Counsel

The Board met in Executive Session pursuant to Paragraph (1) of Subdivision (b) of California Government Code Section 54957. There was nothing to report.

B. Public Employee Performance Evaluation  
(Pursuant to Paragraph (1) of Subdivision (b) of California Government Code Section 54957)

Title: Chief Executive Officer

The Board met in Executive Session pursuant to Paragraph (1) of Subdivision (b) of California Government Code Section 54957. There was nothing to report.

January 14, 2021

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Green Folder Information (Information provided to the Trustees prior to the meeting)

1. Disability Retirement Correction Memo #5160B (Memo dated January 12, 2021)

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned in memory of previous Trustee, Simon Russin, at 12:30 p.m.

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GINA ZAPANTA, SECRETARY

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ALAN BERNSTEIN, CHAIR



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**Documents not attached are exempt from disclosure under the California Public Records Act and other legal authority.**

**For further information, contact:  
LACERA  
Attention: Public Records Act Requests  
300 N. Lake Ave., Suite 620  
Pasadena, CA 91101**





January 28, 2021

TO: Each Trustee  
Board of Retirement

FROM: Ricki Contreras, Division Manager  
Disability Retirement Services

SUBJECT: **APPEAL FOR THE BOARD OF RETIREMENT'S MEETING  
OF FEBRUARY 11, 2021**

**IT IS RECOMMENDED** that the Board of Retirement grant the appeal and request for administrative hearing received from the following applicant, and direct the Disability Retirement Services Manager to refer the case to a referee:

2150C Daljit S. Arora

In Pro Per

Grant SCD – Employer Cannot Accommodate; Deny the Option of an Earlier Effective Date

RC:kw

Memo.New  
Appeals.docx

**FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

January 29, 2021

TO: Each Trustee  
Board of RetirementFROM: Ricki Contreras, Division Manager  
Disability Retirement Services

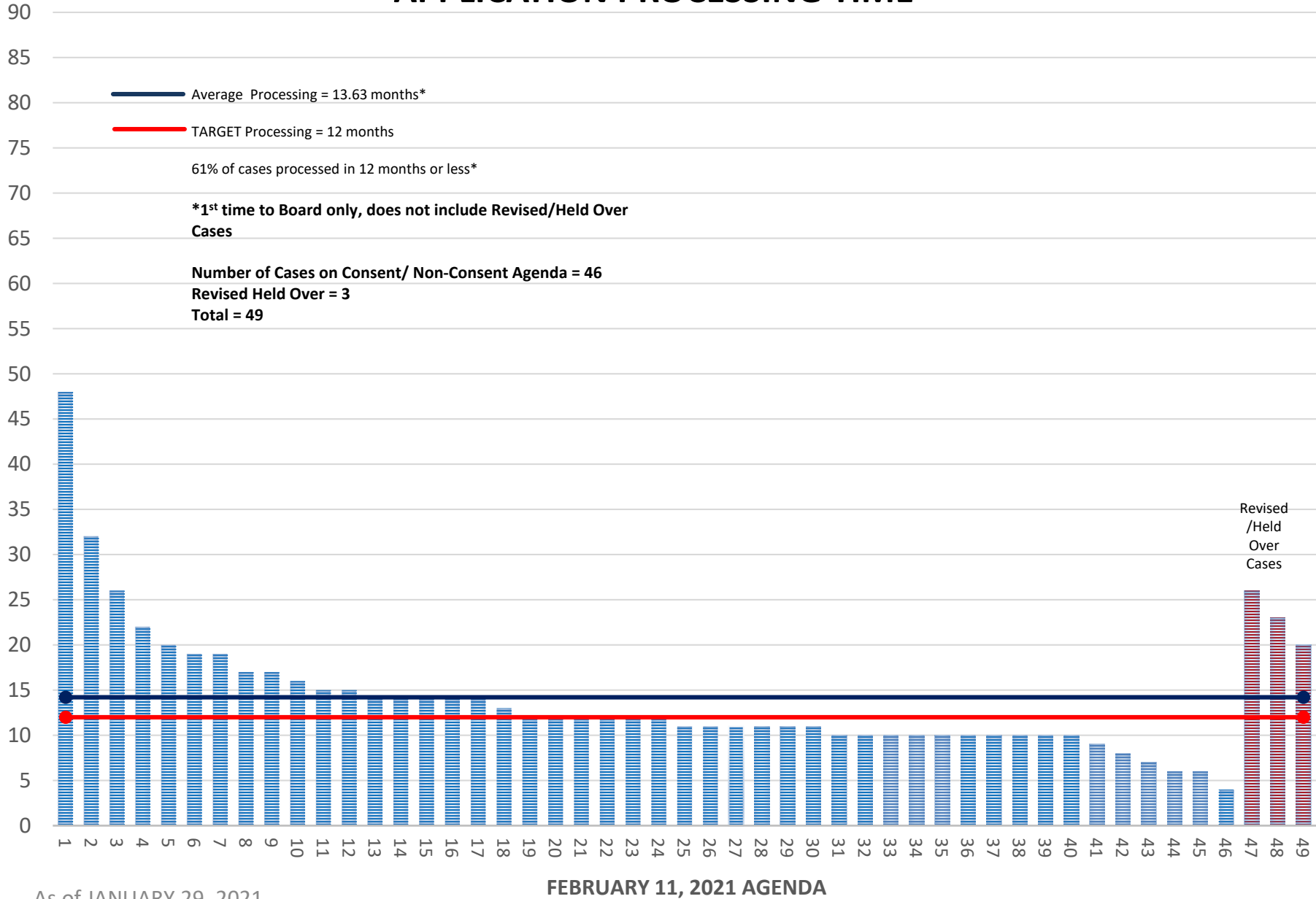
FOR: February 11, 2021 Board of Retirement Meeting

SUBJECT: **Application Processing Time Snapshot Reports**

The following chart shows the total processing time from receipt of the application to the first Board action for all cases on the February 11, 2021 Disability Retirement Applications Agenda.

<b>Consent &amp; Non-Consent Calendar</b>			
Number of Applications	46		
Average Processing Time (in Months)	13.63		
<b>Revised/Held Over Calendar</b>			
Number of Applications	3		
Processing Time Per Case (in Months)	Case 1 26	Case 2 23	Case 3 20
<b>Total Average Processing Time All <u>49</u> Cases on Agenda</b>			
14.20			

# DISABILITY RETIREMENT SERVICES APPLICATION PROCESSING TIME



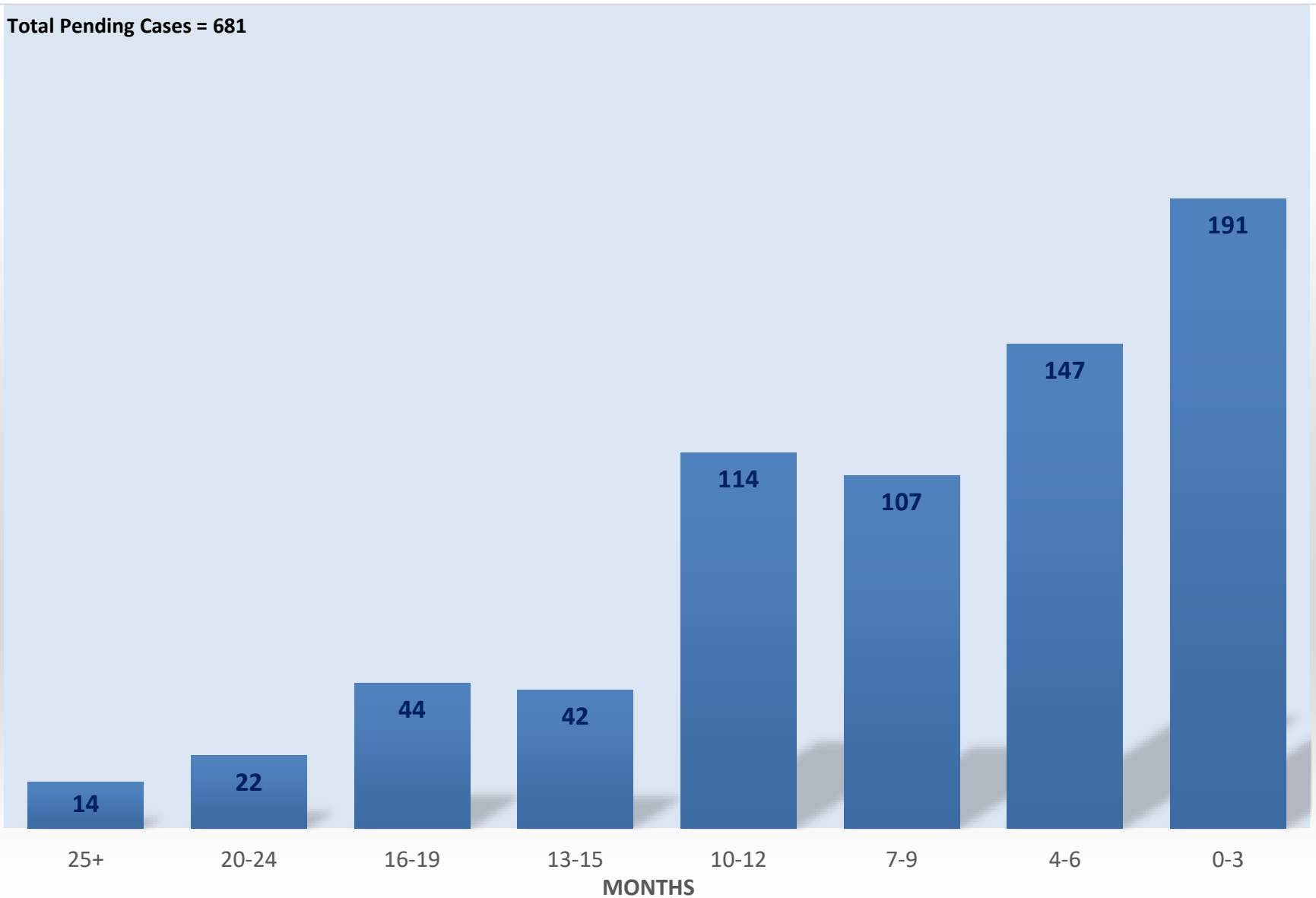
As of JANUARY 29, 2021

FEBRUARY 11, 2021 AGENDA

# DISABILITY RETIREMENT SERVICES PENDING APPLICATIONS/TIME INTERVALS

Total Pending Cases = 681

NUMBER OF PENDING APPLICATIONS




As of JANUARY 29, 2021

**FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

January 29, 2021

TO: Each Trustee  
Board of Retirement

FROM: Francis J. Boyd   
Senior Staff Counsel

Ricki Contreras, Manager   
Disability Retirement Services

FOR: February 11, 2021 Board of Retirement Meeting

**SUBJECT: PHYSICIAN STATEMENT FOR DISABILITY REQUIREMENT**

Before Disability Retirement Services (DRS) will accept an application for a disability retirement, members must provide a signed Physician Statement for Disability verifying that the member is permanently incapacitated from a medical condition within the physician's specialty. Since March 2020, the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health has issued stay-at-home orders restricting various public interactions. We have recently been informed by applicants' attorneys that these orders have impacted members' access to their treating physicians and ability to obtain the required signed Physician Statement for Disability.

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform the Board of Retirement that DRS has temporarily suspended the physician statement requirement in order to help our members overcome the above-described difficulties and maintain the timely processing of disability-retirement applications.

Beginning January 29, 2021, in lieu of a Physician Statement for Disability, DRS will accept a medical report containing a statement that the member is permanently unable to return his or her usual duties or contains work restrictions that would prevent the member from performing his or her usual duties. The medical condition causing incapacity must be within the authoring physician's specialty and dated within a year of the application date—DRS staff will consider submitted reports that do not meet these criteria on a case-by-case basis.

DRS will continue to monitor the Department of Public Health's restrictions related to COVID-19 and notify the Board when it returns to its normal practice of requiring a signed Physician Statement for Disability with the application.

Reviewed and approved.



Steven P. Rice, Chief Counsel

FJB:rc



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Attention: Public Records Act Requests  
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