

**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 15, 2025

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

TRUSTEES PRESENT:

Les Robbins, Chair (In-Person)

Ronald Okum, Vice Chair (Joined the meeting at 10:48 a.m.)  
(In Person)

Shawn R. Kehoe, Secretary (Alternate Member) (In-Person)

Nancy Durazo (By Teleconference)

Jason E. Green (By Teleconference)

JP Harris (Alternate Retired) (In-Person)

Aleen Langton (By Teleconference)

Wayne Moore (By Teleconference)

David Ryu (By Teleconference)

Vacant Seat

TRUSTEES ABSENT:

Elizabeth Ginsberg

STAFF ADVISORS AND PARTICIPANTS

Santos H. Kreimann, Chief Executive Office

Luis A. Lugo, Deputy Chief Executive Officer

JJ Popowich, Assistant Executive Officer

STAFF ADVISORS AND PARTICIPANTS (Continued)

Laura Guglielmo, Assistant Executive Officer (By Teleconference)

Jude Perez, Deputy Chief Investment Officer

Steven P. Rice, Chief Counsel

Dr. Glenn Ehresmann, Medical Advisor (By Teleconference)

Francis J. Boyd, Senior Staff Counsel

Allison Barrett, Senior Staff Counsel

Jean Kim, Senior Staff Counsel (By Teleconference)

Vincent Lim, Disability Litigation Manager (By Teleconference)

Ted Granger, Chief Financial Officer (By Teleconference)

Barry W. Lew, Legislative Affairs Officer (By Teleconference)

Ricki Contreras, Administrative Services Manager  
(By Teleconference)

Kathy Delino, Chief Information Technology (By Teleconference)

Carly Ntoya, Human Resources Director (By Teleconference)

Tamara Caldwell, Disability Retirement Manager (By Teleconference)

Nick Collier, Milliman (By Teleconference)

Zachary Wertheimer, Buchalter (By Teleconference)

Ashley Dunning, Nossaman (By Teleconference)

Naomi Padron, MKP Government Relations (By Teleconference)

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Kehoe at 9:14 a.m. in the Board Room of Gateway Plaza.

Trustee Kehoe made a motion, Trustee Harris seconded, that, due to the Governor's Proclamations of a State of Emergency in Los Angeles County, the Board find there is imminent risk to the health and safety of attendees if the meeting if Board and Committee meetings were to proceed in person due to LACERA's proximity to the Eaton Fire and Pasadena's Red Flag warnings currently in effect, that the determination is valid for up to 45 days before it needs to be renewed, and that meetings will be held as emergency teleconference meetings under California Government Code Section 54953(e) of the Brown Act. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Durazo, Green, Langton, Moore, Robbins, Ryu

Absent: Ginsberg, Okum

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Trustee Harris led the Trustees and staff in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. PROCEDURE FOR TELECONFERENCE MEETING ATTENDANCE UNDER AB 2449, California Government Code Section 54953 (f)

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

This meeting was held as an emergency meeting under California Government Code Section 54953(e) of the Brown Act.

IV. RATIFICATION OF OFFICERS

A. **Board of Retirement Board Officers – 2025 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 2025 calendar year under the Board's Board

IV. RATIFICATION OF OFFICERS (Continued)

Officer Rotation Policy: Les Robbins as Chair, Ronald Okum as Vice Chair, and Shawn R. Kehoe as Secretary.  
(Memo dated December 18, 2024)

Trustee Robbins made a motion, Trustee Green seconded, to approve staff's recommendation. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Durazo, Green, Langton, Moore, Robbins, Ryu

Absent: Ginsberg, Okum

V. ELECTIONS OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Election of Trustees to Joint Organizational Governance Committee (1 Trustee) and Audit, Compliance, Risk, and Ethics Committee (3 Trustees)

This item will be agendized at the next meeting.

VI. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 4, 2024

Trustee Harris made a motion, Trustee Kehoe seconded, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 4, 2024. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Durazo, Green, Langton, Moore, Robbins, Ryu

Absent: Ginsberg, Okum

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no requests from the public to speak.

VIII. EXECUTIVE UPDATE

A. LACERA All Stars

Mr. Popowich announced the winners for the month: Veronica Yi-Martinez, Ted Granger, Tatiana Bayer, and Sarah Scott.

B. Member Spotlight

Mr. Popowich recognized LACERA member, Theresa Mitchell.

C. Chief Executive Officer's Report

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 Harris, the Board of Retirement approved a service-connected disability retirement for the following named employees who met the burden of establishing permanent incapacity from the performance of their usual duties and a real and measurable connection between their incapacity and employment.

<u>APPLICATION NO.</u>	<u>NAME</u>
536E*	CRUZ, ULYSSES A.
537E	LOVE, ROBERT B.
538E**	CALI, GINA M.
539E	MCCULLOUGH, LEE M.
540E	GENDRON, DANIEL J.
541E	OGANESYAN, ARMOND
542E	BAJANOV, CHRISTOPHER P.
543E	WHITCOMB, BRENDAN M.
544E**	VERLICH, MICHAEL A.
545E	YOST, REGINA M.
546E**	GORDON, JEFFREY A.

\*Granted SCD – Employer Cannot Accommodate

\*\*Granted SCD – Retroactive

IX. DISABILITY RETIREMENT APPLICATIONS ON CONSENT CALENDAR

Safety Law Enforcement  
Service-Connected Disability Applications

<u>APPLICATION NO.</u>	<u>NAME</u>
547E	DELGADILLO, PASCUAL
548E	VALENTO, MICHAEL E.
549E	KNAPP, GREGORY R.
550E	CHAN, LARRY G.
551E	SHOEMAKER, DAVID S.
552E	AVOLA, MICHAEL J.
553E	YOUNG, SHAWN J.

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Durazo, Kehoe, Langton, Moore, Robbins, Ryu

Absent: Ginsberg, Okum

Safety Fire, Lifeguards  
Service-Connected Disability Applications

On a motion by Trustee Green, seconded by Trustee Harris, the Board of Retirement approved a service-connected disability retirement for the following named employees who met the burden of establishing permanent incapacity from the performance of their usual duties and a real and measurable connection between their incapacity and employment.

<u>APPLICATION NO.</u>	<u>NAME</u>
1900B*	O'DONNELL, TIMOTHY S.
1901B*	DELGADO, PRESTON B.
1902B	HARRIS, LEO W.
1903B*	BUGARIN, DAVID J.
1904B	BUZZERIO, ANTHONY
1905B**	VAN OEFFELEN, JONATHAN E. (DEC'D)
1906B	PONTIOUS, DAVID C.
1907B	KNIGHT, CHARLES, JR.

\*Granted SCD – Retroactive

\*\*Granted SCD – Survivor Benefit

IX. DISABILITY RETIREMENT APPLICATIONS ON CONSENT CALENDAR

Safety Fire, Lifeguards (Continued)  
Service-Connected Disability Applications

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Durazo, Kehoe, Langton, Moore, Robbins, Ryu

Absent: Ginsberg, Okum

General Members  
Service-Connected Disability Applications

On a motion by Trustee Harris, seconded by Trustee Durazo, the Board of Retirement made a motion to approve a service-connected disability retirement for the following named employees who met the burden of establishing permanent incapacity from the performance of their usual duties and a real and measurable connection between their incapacity and employment.

<u>APPLICATION NO.</u>	<u>NAME</u>
2858C*	CHEY, ENSAYENNA
2859C*	RODRIGUEZ, MARTIN A.
2860C**	GUTIERREZ, APIRADI
2861C*	BARRERA, GEMA
2862C**	GARCIA, IRMA
2863C	ROYBAL, CYNTHIA L.
2864C*	KUMAR, KRISH I.
2865C	RIVAS, MARCO A.
2866C**	GALEAI, JOSEPH F.
2867C***	VILLASENOR, JOSEPH D.
2868C*	HERNANDEZ, CHRISTOPHER C.
2869C***	CICCO, JUDITH M.
2870C*	MC TILLER, IRA
2871C***	STORY, RONALD P.
2872C***	GUEVARA, EDNA
2873C*	COKER, STUART R.
2874C**	HINESTROSA, JUAN CARLOS

\*Granted SCD – Employer Cannot Accommodate

\*\*Granted SCD – Retroactive

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

IX. DISABILITY RETIREMENT APPLICATIONS ON CONSENT CALENDAR

General Members (Continued)  
Service-Connected Disability Applications

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Durazo, Kehoe, Langton, Moore, Robbins, Ryu

Absent: Ginsberg, Okum

General Members  
Nonservice-Connected Disability Applications

On a motion by Trustee Robbins, seconded by Trustee Durazo, the Board of Retirement made a motion to approve a nonservice-connected disability retirement for the following named employees who met the burden of establishing permanent incapacity from the performance of their usual duties.

<u>APPLICATION NO.</u>	<u>NAME</u>
4509	WENG, LI-CHUN

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Durazo, Kehoe, Langton, Moore, Robbins, Ryu

Absent: Ginsberg, Okum

X. CONSENT ITEMS

Trustee Harris made a motion, Trustee Kehoe seconded, to approve consent items A-C.

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

Recommendation that the Board approve the service retirements and survivor benefit applications received as December 31, 2024, along with any retirement rescissions and/or changes approved at last month's Board meeting. (Memo dated December 31, 2024)



X. CONSENT ITEMS (Continued)

B. **Appeal(s) for the Board of Retirement's Meeting**

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 Lisa Washington (Survivor) regarding William H. Attmore II (Dec'd), Donna M. Anderson, and Demicha L. Lofton-Thomas and direct the Disability Retirement Services Manager to refer each case to a referee. (Memo dated December 24, 2024)

C. **Service Provider Invoice Approval Request - Winet Patrick Gayer Creighton & Hanes**

Recommendation as submitted by Francis J. Boyd, Senior Staff Counsel, Legal Services: That the Board approve the service provider invoice for Winet Patrick Gayer Creighton & Hanes.

(Memo dated December 17, 2024 - Attachment is Non-Public and Exempt from Disclosure as Private Information and Exempt from Disclosure under California Government Code Sections 7927.700, 54957.56(a))

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Durazo, Kehoe, Langton, Moore, Robbins, Ryu

Absent: Ginsberg, Okum

XI. EXCLUDED FROM CONSENT ITEMS

There were no items pulled for discussion.

XII. NON-CONSENT ITEMS

A. **Calculating Final Compensation of PEPRA Members**

Recommendation as submitted by Jean Kim, Senior Staff Counsel: That the Board 1) Adopt the new interpretation of the FAC rules for PEPRA members retroactively and prospectively; 2) Approve staff to determine and pay, with interest, any additional benefits owed to PEPRA members for whom LACERA has already begun payment of retirement benefits, retroactively to the member's retirement date; and 3) Direct staff to return with a plan of implementation (including

XII. NON-CONSENT ITEMS (Continued)

changes to operations, training and communication to members) and the final impact report.

(Presentation) (Memo dated December 18, 2024 – Attachments B and C are Non-Public and Exempt from Disclosure as Private Information and Exempt from Disclosure under California Government Code Sections 7927.705, 54957.5(a))

Ms. Kim, Nick Collier from Milliman, Zachary Wertheimer from Buchalter, and Ashley Dunning from Nossaman were present and provided a presentation.

Trustee Green made a motion, Trustee Kehoe seconded, to approve staff's recommendation. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Durazo, Kehoe, Langton, Moore, Robbins, Ryu

Absent: Ginsberg, Okum

XIII. REPORTS

A. **Updating LACERA's Code of Ethical Conduct**

Steven P. Rice, Chief Counsel

Allison E. Barrett, Senior Staff Counsel

Jessica Rivas, Staff Counsel

(Presentation) (Memo dated December 17, 2024)

Jessica Rivas provided a brief presentation and answered questions from the Board.

B. **State Legislative Update**

Barry W. Lew, Legislative Affairs Officer

Naomi Padron, MKP Government Relations

(For Information Only) (Memo dated December 19, 2024)

Ms. Padron provided a presentation to the Board and answered questions.

XIII. REPORTS (Continued)

C. **Audit, Compliance, Risk, and Ethics (ACRE) Committee Annual Report to the Boards**

Debbie Martin, 2024 ACRE Committee Chair

Richard P. Bendall, Chief Audit Executive

(For Information Only) (Memo dated December 19, 2024)

This item was received and filed.

D. **Contacting Activity Report – December 2024**

Ricki Contreras, Administrative Services Division Manager

Elsy Gutierrez, Supervising Administrative Assistant II

(For Information Only) (December 19, 2024)

This item was received and filed.

E. **Monthly Trustee Travel & Education Report – November 2024**

Ted Granger, Chief Financial Officer

(For Information Only) (Memo dated December 19, 2024)

This item was received and filed.

F. **December 2024 Fiduciary Counsel Contact and Billing Report**

Steven P. Rice, Chief Counsel

(For Information Only) (Memo dated December 20, 2024)

(Privileged and Confidential/Attorney-Client Communication/Attorney Work Product and Exempt from Disclosure under California Government Code Sections 7927.705, 54957.5(a))

This item was received and filed.

XIV. ITEMS FOR STAFF REVIEW

There were no items for staff review.

XV. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

There were no items for staff review.

XVI. GOOD OF THE ORDER  
(For Information Purposes Only)

Trustees thanked the Sheriff's and Fire Department for all their help in their efforts in containing the wildfires.

XVII. DISABILITY RETIREMENT CASES TO BE HELD IN CLOSED SESSION

A. Applications for Disability  
(Trustee Okum joined the meeting at 10:48 a.m.)

APPLICATION NO. & NAME AND BOARD ACTION

5446B - BARDON, JORDAN C.\*

Trustee Kehoe made a motion, Trustee Harris seconded, to grant a service-connected disability retirement pursuant to Government Code Section 31720. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Durazo, Kehoe, Moore, Okum, Robbins, Ryu

Abstain: Langton

Absent: Ginsberg

5285B - ATKINSON, GENIEVE R.

Trustee Kehoe made a motion, Trustee Harris seconded, to deny a service-connected disability retirement and find a good cause to amend the application to include an earlier effective date.

Trustee Moore made a substitute motion, Trustee Okum seconded, to grant a service-connected disability retirement. The motion failed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Moore, Okum, Ryu

No: Durazo, Green, Langton, Robbins

Absent: Ginsberg

\*Applicant Attorney Present

XVIII. DISABILITY RETIREMENT CASES TO BE HELD IN CLOSED SESSION

A. Applications for Disability (Continued)

APPLICATION NO. & NAME AND BOARD ACTION

Trustee Green made a substitute motion, Trustee Kehoe seconded, to refer back to staff for additional information. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Durazo, Kehoe, Langton, Moore, Okum, Robbins, Ryu

Absent: Ginsberg

5325B - BOTTOMLEY, IMELDA\*

Trustee Okum made a motion, Trustee Kehoe seconded, to grant a service-connected disability retirement pursuant to Government Code Section 31720. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Durazo, Kehoe, Langton, Moore, Okum, Robbins, Ryu

Absent: Ginsberg

5435B - EKEOCHAH, CHYCHY M.

Trustee Okum made a motion, Trustee Kehoe seconded, to grant a service-connected disability retirement pursuant to Government Code Section 31720. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Durazo, Green, Langton, Moore, Okum, Robbins, Ryu

Absent: Ginsberg

5205B - ALMAGUER, ARAMIS P.

Trustee Okum made a motion, Trustee Kehoe seconded, to grant a service-connected disability retirement pursuant to Government Code Section 31720 since the employer cannot accommodate. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

\*Applicant Attorney Present

XVIII. DISABILITY RETIREMENT CASES TO BE HELD IN CLOSED SESSION

A. Applications for Disability (Continued)

APPLICATION NO. & NAME AND BOARD ACTION

5205B - ALMAGUER, ARAMIS P.

Yes: Durazo, Green, Langton, Moore, Okum, Robbins, Ryu

Absent: Ginsberg

B. Staff Recommendations

1. **Disability Retirement Application of Kayla Jones**

Recommendation as submitted by Francis J. Boyd, Senior Staff Counsel, Legal Services: That the Board reopen Kayla Jones' disability-retirement application under Government Code section 31541, the errors or omissions statute, to allow staff an opportunity to correct an error in the processing her application and to allow Ms. Jones an opportunity to rescind her application if she desires to do so. (Memo dated December 11, 2024)

Trustee Okum made a motion, Trustee Kehoe seconded, to approve staff's recommendation. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Durazo, Green, Langton, Moore, Okum, Robbins, Ryu

Absent: Ginsberg

XVIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

Number of Cases: 1

Francis J. Boyd, Senior Staff Counsel

(For Information Only) (Memo dated December 16, 2024)

There was nothing to report.

XIX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.



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SHAWN R. KEHOE, SECRETARY



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LES ROBBINS, CHAIR

