

**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, FEBRUARY 5, 2025

*This meeting was conducted in person and by emergency teleconference under California Government Code Section 54953(e) based on the Board of Retirement's action at its meeting on January 15, 2025.*

TRUSTEES PRESENT:

Les Robbins, Chair (In-Person)

Ronald Okum, Vice Chair (By Teleconference)

Shawn R. Kehoe, Secretary (Alternate Seventh Member) (By Teleconference)

Nancy Durazo (In-Person)

Elizabeth Ginsberg (In-Person)

Jason E. Green (By Teleconference)

JP Harris (Alternate Retired) (In-Person)

Aleen Langton (In-Person)

Wayne Moore (By Teleconference)

David Ryu (By Teleconference)

One Vacant Seat

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

Jonathan Grabel, Chief Investment Officer

Steven P. Rice, Chief Counsel

Dr. Glenn Ehresmann, Medical Advisor

Francis J. Boyd, Senior Staff Counsel

Allison Barrett, Senior Staff Counsel

Jean Kim, Senior Staff Counsel

Zack Meth, Staff Counsel

Vincent Lim, Disability Litigation Manager

Ted Granger, Chief Financial Officer

Barry W. Lew, Legislative Affairs Officer

Ricki Contreras, Administrative Services Manager

Kathy Delino, Chief Information Technology

Carly Ntoya, Human Resources Director

Tamara Caldwell, Disability Retirement Manager

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Robbins at 9:05 a.m. in the Board Room of Gateway Plaza.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

III. ELECTIONS OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

Trustee Kehoe nominated Trustee Ryu for the position of Joint Organizational Governance Committee Member for 2025. Hearing no other nominations, the nominations were closed. Chair Robbins announced that Trustee Ryu was elected.

Trustee Durazo nominated herself, Trustee Kehoe nominated Trustee Moore, and Trustee Okum nominated Trustee Green to positions as Members of the Audit, Compliance, Risk, and Ethics Committee Member for 2025. Hearing no other nominations, the nominations were closed. Chair Robbins announced that Trustees Durazo, Moore and Green were elected.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 15, 2025

Trustee Harris made a motion, Trustee Durazo seconded, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 15, 2025. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

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

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no requests from the public to speak.

VI. EXECUTIVE UPDATE

A. LACERA All Stars

Mr. Popowich announced the winners for the month: Amy Lim, Deanna Hernandez, Sandra Sanchez, and Maria Cervantes.

B. Member Spotlight

Mr. Popowich recognized LACERA member, Anne Nedd-Campo. He also recognized LACERA staff member Joann Trinkle who will be

VI. EXECUTIVE UPDATE (Continued)

B. Member Spotlight

retiring after 15 years. Lastly, he provided an update to the fire recovery response and recognized staff who assisted with organizing various efforts.

C. Chief Executive Officer's Report

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

VII. DISABILITY RETIREMENT APPLICATIONS ON CONSENT CALENDAR

Safety Law Enforcement  
Service-Connected Disability Applications

On a motion by Trustee Harris, seconded by Trustee Kehoe, 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>
554E*	SANCHEZ, JACOB J.
555E	TATOULIAN, CARMEN
556E	MATTES, YVETTE
557E	MENDOZA, MICHAEL M.
558E	CHAU, ROBERT B.
559E*	RODRIGUEZ, GUILLERMO
560E	FLORES, LUIS A.
561E*	DE ALBA, CYNTHIA M.
562E	SMITSON, ERIC C.
563E	QUIRE, JOSEPH P.
564E	RECCHIA, DOMENICK A.
565E	MAIO, JOHN S.
566E	DOBINE, STACIE M.
567E	QUARTO, CHARLES R.
568E	TAYLOR, GREGORY C.

\*Granted SCD – Retroactive

VII. DISABILITY RETIREMENT APPLICATIONS ON CONSENT CALENDAR  
(Continued)

<u>APPLICATION NO.</u>	<u>NAME</u>
569E	DE LEON, SHELLEY D.
570E	DINWIDDIE, DAVID R.
571E	GARDNER, JILL V.
572E	PALMIERI, MARCO L.
573E	SHEPHERD, CHAFFEY C.

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

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

Safety Fire, Lifeguards  
Service-Connected Disability Applications

On a motion by Trustee Green, seconded by Trustee Moore, 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>
1908B*	STOWERS, FREDERIC K.
1909B	WILSON-HALL, RENE C.
1910B	BOHNEY, KURT P.
1911B	WALTON, RANDY H.
1912B	JONES, BRIAN D.
1913B*	SIERRA, TOMAS A.
1914B*	CONNELLY, THERESA

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

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

\*Granted SCD – Retroactive

VII. DISABILITY RETIREMENT APPLICATIONS ON CONSENT CALENDAR  
(Continued)

General Members

Service-Connected Disability Applications

On a motion by Trustee Moore, seconded by Trustee Robbins, 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>
2875C*	IRUETA, LAUREANO J.
2876C*	AGOSTO ALVARADO, ANNA B
2877C**	MOORE, KIM R.
2878C	ROBERTSON, JANA E. L.
2879C**	JEFFERSON, SARA V.
2880C***	BRISTER, BRIONNE B.
2881C	LAYLAND, CARA S.
2882C**	BARDAKJIAN, STEEVIO A.
2883C****	BELLFIELD, LAWANDA H.
2884C	RAGLAND, TRACIE L.
2885C	VALENZUELA, ROMELIA

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

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

General Members

Nonservice-Connected Disability Applications

On a motion by Trustee Green, seconded by Trustee Robbins, 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.

\*Granted SCD – Retroactive

\*\*Granted SCD – Employer Cannot Accommodate

\*\*\*Granted SCD Salary Supplement

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

VII. DISABILITY RETIREMENT APPLICATIONS ON CONSENT CALENDAR  
(Continued)

General Members

Nonservice-Connected Disability Applications

APPLICATION NO.

4510\*

NAME

FRANCISCO, MARIA TERESA V.

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

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

VIII. CONSENT ITEMS

Trustee Okum 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 January 28, 2025, along with any retirement rescissions and/or changes approved at last month's Board meeting. (Memo dated January 28, 2025)

B. **Pensionability Analysis Under CERL and PEPRA for New Pay Item**

Recommendation as submitted by Jean J. Kim, Senior Staff Counsel and Zack Meth, Staff Counsel: That the Board: 1) Approve the recommendations set forth above as to the pay item; and 2) Instruct staff to coordinate with the Auditor-Controller to establish necessary reporting mechanism and procedures to permit LACERA to implement such determinations when calculating final compensation for legacy and PEPRA members. (Memo dated January 13, 2025)

C. **Service Provider Invoice Approval Request – Referee Duane Bennett**

Recommendation as submitted by Tamara Caldwell, Division Manager, Disability Retirement Services: That the Board approve the service provider invoice for Referee Duane Bennett.

\*Granted NSCD – Retroactive

VIII. CONSENT ITEMS (Continued)

(Memo dated January 8, 2025 – 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, Ginsberg, Green, Langton, Moore, Okum, Robbins, Ryu

IX. EXCLUDED FROM CONSENT ITEMS

There were no items pulled for discussion.

X. NON-CONSENT ITEMS

A. **Cost-of-Living Adjustment Effective April 1, 2025**

Recommendation as submitted by Ted Granger, Chief Financial Officer: That the Board, for the year ended December 2024, determine the Consumer Price Index changed by 3.4% (or when rounded to the nearest one-half of 1.0% as the COLA benefit rules require: the LACERA 2025 COLA Award is 3.5%), and approve cost-of-living adjustments and respective COLA Accumulation changes for retired LACERA members and beneficiaries, based on retirement plan and date of retirement or death, to become effective April 1, 2025 in accordance with applicable California Government Code Sections. (Presentation) (Memo dated January 24, 2025)

Mr. Granger provided a presentation and answered questions from the Board.

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

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

B. **Approval – Revision of Contract Costs for Global Relay**

Recommendation as submitted by Chait Errande, Chief Information Security Officer: That the Board 1) Approve the monthly costs of Global Relay from \$10,240.00 to \$11,890.00 and the set-up charge is revised



X. NON-CONSENT ITEMS (Continued)

from \$8,480.00 to \$8,975.00; and 2) The revised total five-year (60 months) expenditure is increased from \$622,880.00 to \$722,375.00, which is \$99,495.00 over the initial contract amount. Despite the increase, the cost remains lower than that of the other finalist.  
(Memo dated January 20, 2025)

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

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

XI. REPORTS

A. **LACERA 2025 Election of Seventh and Alternate Seventh Members Review and Update of the Statement of Powers and Duties of Board of Retirement Trustees**

Steven P. Rice, Chief Counsel

(Presentation) (Memo dated January 30, 2025)

Mr. Rice provided a presentation and answered questions from the Board. The Board provided comments to be considered in returning the item for action at its March 5, 2025 meeting.

B. **State Legislative Advocate: Self-Evaluation**

Barry W. Lew, Legislative Affairs Officer

(For Information Only) (Memo dated January 21, 2025)

This item was received and filed.

C. **Report of Revised Pay Items – MOU Lump Sum Bonus (Item No. 572)**

Jean J. Kim, Senior Staff Counsel

Zack Meth, Staff Counsel

(For Information Only) (Memo dated January 28, 2025)

This item was received and filed.

XI. REPORTS (Continued)

D. **Report of Revised Pay Item**

Jean J. Kim, Senior Staff Counsel

Zack Meth, Staff Counsel

(For Information Only) (Memo dated January 28, 2025)

This item was received and filed.

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

Ted Granger, Chief Financial Officer

(For Information Only) (Memo dated January 23, 2025)

This item was received and filed.

F. **2025 Quarterly Reports of Paid Invoices – 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter**

Tamara Caldwell, Division Manager, Disability Retirement Services

(For Information Only) (Memo dated January 16, 2025 – 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))

This item was received and filed.

G. **January 2025 Fiduciary Counsel Contact and Billing Report**

Steven P. Rice, Chief Counsel

(For Information Only) (Memo dated January 27, 2025)

(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.

XII. ITEMS FOR STAFF REVIEW

Trustee Kehoe requested that staff identify member profiles so that outreach efforts can be provided to them. Trustee Moore requested that the average monthly benefit for safety and general members be provided in the CEO Dashboard.

XIII. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Trustee Kehoe requested that the topic of the STAR COLA funding be agendized at a future meeting, possibly the BOR Offsite.

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

Trustees thanked staff for their efforts and leadership during the Los Angeles wildfires and facilitating our members.

XV. DISABILITY RETIREMENT CASES TO BE HELD IN CLOSED SESSION

A. Applications for Disability

APPLICATION NO. & NAME AND BOARD ACTION

5447B - GARNETT, RHONDA

Trustee Okum made a motion, Trustee Langton seconded, to deny a service-connected disability retirement and find the applicant not permanently incapacitated. Trustee Harris made a substitute motion, Trustee Durazo seconded, to refer back to staff for further information.

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

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

No: Langton

Abstain: Okum

5434B - SIERAKOWSKI, JASON M.\*

Trustee Kehoe made a motion, Trustee Okum 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, Ginsberg, Kehoe, Langton, Moore, Okum, Robbins, Ryu

XV. DISABILITY RETIREMENT CASES TO BE HELD IN CLOSED SESSION

A. Applications for Disability

APPLICATION NO. & NAME AND BOARD ACTION

5439B - WASHINGTON, DENISE A.\*

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

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

5443B - SANTIAGO, MELVIN M.

Trustee Okum made a motion, Trustee Moore seconded, to grant a nonservice-connected disability retirement pursuant to Government Code Section 31720. Trustee Green made a substitute motion, Trustee Harris seconded, to refer back to staff for further information.

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Durazo, Ginsberg, Green, Moore, Ryu

No: Langton, Robbins

B. Disability Retirement Appeals

APPLICATION NO. & NAME AND BOARD ACTION

JOHNSON, BILLY B. (DEC'D) – Michael Treger for the Applicant  
Sophia A. Johnson (Survivor) Jason Waller for the Respondent

Trustee Harris made a motion, Trustee Okum seconded, to grant a service-connected disability retirement survivor allowance.

\*Applicant and/or Applicant's Attorney Present

XV. DISABILITY RETIREMENT CASES TO BE HELD IN CLOSED SESSION

B. Disability Retirement Appeals (Continued)

APPLICATION NO. & NAME AND BOARD ACTION

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

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

C. Staff Recommendations

1. **Disability Retirement Application of Bradley W. Mack**

Recommendation as submitted by Francis J. Boyd, Senior Staff Counsel, Legal Services Division: That the Board reopen Bradley W. Mack's disability-retirement application under Government Code section 31541(b), the errors or omissions statute, to allow him an opportunity to rescind his application. (Memo dated January 23, 2025)

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

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

XVI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. **Potential Threats to Public Services or Facilities**

(Pursuant to Subdivision (a) of California Government Code Section 54957)

Consultation with: LACERA Chief Executive Officer Santos H. Kreimann, Deputy Chief Executive Officer Luis Lugo, Assistant Executive Officers JJ Popowich and Laura Guglielmo, Chief, Information Technology Kathy Delino, Information Security Officer Chaitanya Errande, and Other LACERA Staff.

There was nothing to report.

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shawn R. Kehoe', positioned above a horizontal line.

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SHAWN R. KEHOE, SECRETARY



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Les Robbins', positioned above a horizontal line.

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LES ROBBINS, CHAIR

