

## ***Benefits Administration Committee Agenda***

### **REGULAR MEETING**

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2023**

**TIME: 9:30 A.M.**

### **MEETING LOCATION:**

LACERS Boardroom  
977 N. Broadway  
Los Angeles, California 90012

**Important Message to the Public**

An opportunity for the public to address the Committee in person from the Boardroom and provide comment on items of interest that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Committee or on any agenda item will be provided at the beginning of the meeting and before consideration of items on the agenda.

Members of the public who do not wish to attend the meeting in person may listen to the live meeting via one-way audio on Council Phone by calling (213) 621-CITY (Metro), (818) 904-9450 (Valley), (310) 471-CITY (Westside) or (310) 547-CITY (San Pedro Area).

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Chair: Michael R. Wilkinson

Committee Members: Thuy Huynh  
Sung Wohn Sohn

Manager-Secretary: Neil M. Guglielmo

Executive Assistant: Ani Ghoukassian

Legal Counselor: City Attorney's Office  
Public Pensions General  
Counsel Division

**Notice to Paid Representatives**

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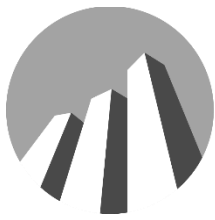
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- I. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS ON MATTERS WITHIN THE COMMITTEE'S JURISDICTION AND COMMENTS ON ANY SPECIFIC MATTERS ON THE AGENDA

- II. [APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF AUGUST 8, 2023 AND POSSIBLE COMMITTEE ACTION](#)
- III. [PROPOSED CHANGE TO DISABILITY RETIREMENT PRESENTATION AND POSSIBLE COMMITTEE ACTION](#)
- IV. OTHER BUSINESS
- V. NEXT MEETING: The next Benefits Administration Committee meeting is not scheduled at this time and will be announced upon scheduling. Please continue to view the LACERS website for updated information on public access to Board/Committee meetings.
- VI. ADJOURNMENT



# LACERS

LA CITY EMPLOYEES'  
RETIREMENT SYSTEM



## Board of Administration Agenda

### SPECIAL MEETING

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2023**

**TIME: 9:30 A.M.**

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977 N. Broadway  
Los Angeles, California 90012

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President: Annie Chao  
Vice President: Sung Won Sohn

Commissioners: Thuy Huynh  
Elizabeth Lee  
Gaylord "Rusty" Roten  
Janna Sidley  
Michael R. Wilkinson

Manager-Secretary: Neil M. Guglielmo

Executive Assistant: Ani Ghoukassian

Legal Counsel: City Attorney's Office  
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MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING  
**BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION**  
LOS ANGELES CITY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM

August 8, 2023

9:04 a.m.

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PRESENT:	Chair:	Michael R. Wilkinson
	Committee Members:	Annie Chao
	(arrived at 9:10 a.m.)	Thuy Huynh
	Commissioner:	Sung Won Sohn
	Executive Assistant:	Ani Ghoukassian
	Legal Counselor:	Joshua Geller
	Manager-Secretary:	Todd Bouey

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*The Items in the Minutes are numbered to correspond with the Agenda.*

Commissioner Sohn joined the Benefits Administration Committee meeting at 9:04 a.m., and this was a Special Meeting of the Board of Administration. Any votes were taken by Benefits Administration Committee members only.

I

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS ON MATTERS WITHIN THE COMMITTEE'S JURISDICTION AND COMMENTS ON ANY SPECIFIC MATTERS ON THE AGENDA – Chair Wilkinson asked if any persons wished to speak on matters within the Committee's jurisdiction, and there were no public comment cards submitted.

II

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF JULY 25, 2023 AND POSSIBLE COMMITTEE ACTION – Committee Member Chao moved approval, adopted by the following vote: Ayes, Committee Members Chao, Huynh and Chair Wilkinson -3; Nays, None.

Committee Member Huynh arrived at the meeting at 9:10 a.m.

III

2024 MEDICAL PLAN PREMIUM RATES AND POSSIBLE COMMITTEE ACTION – James Kawashima and Ada Lok, Senior Benefits Analysts, and Bordan Darm, Lead Consultant with Keenan Associates, presented and discussed this item with the Committee. Committee Member Huynh moved approval, adopted by the following vote: Ayes, Committee Members Chao, Huynh and Chair Wilkinson -3; Nays, None.

IV

2024 MAXIMUM SUBSIDY AND REIMBURSEMENT AMOUNTS AND POSSIBLE COMMITTEE ACTION – Ada Lok, Senior Benefits Analyst, and James Kawashima, presented and discussed this item with the Committee. Committee Member Chao moved approval, adopted by the following vote: Ayes, Committee Members Chao, Huynh and Chair Wilkinson -3; Nays, None.

V

OTHER BUSINESS –There was no other business.

VI

NEXT MEETING: The next Benefits Administration Committee meeting is not scheduled at this time, and will be announced upon scheduling. Please continue to view the LACERS website for updated information on public access to Board/Committee meetings.

VII

ADJOURNMENT – There being no further business before the Committee, Chair Wilkinson adjourned the Meeting at 9:27 a.m.

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Michael R. Wilkinson  
Chair

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Neil M. Guglielmo  
Manager-Secretary



**REPORT TO BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

**From: Neil M. Guglielmo, General Manager**

*Neil M. Guglielmo*

**MEETING: SEPTEMBER 26, 2023**

**ITEM: III**

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**SUBJECT: PROPOSED CHANGE TO DISABILITY RETIREMENT PRESENTATION AND POSSIBLE COMMITTEE ACTION**

**ACTION:**  **CLOSED:**  **CONSENT:**  **RECEIVE & FILE:**

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### Recommendation

That the Committee recommend the Board approve by consent, all disability retirement applications whereby the applicant accepts the staff recommendation and waives their right to have their application heard in closed session (known as Alternative 1 or "Alt 1").

### Executive Summary

On August 8, 2023, the Board of Administration adopted the Alternative 1 (Alt 1) and Alternative 2 (Alt 2) presentation options to streamline and add efficiency to the disability retirement review process.

Under Alt 1, a disability applicant who agrees with the staff recommendation concerning their application waives the requirement that the Board conduct a formal hearing, or a closed session review. The applicant/representative retains the option to attend or not attend the board meeting but does not participate in the Board action. Prior to the Board meeting, the applicant signs an acknowledgment indicating their agreement to accept the staff recommendation and waive the formal proceeding, at which point the Board proceeds as normal in reviewing the application and staff recommendation and then renders a decision. A court reporter is not required for the Alt 1 option; therefore, the cost of the hearing is reduced, and the time required to review court transcripts for accuracy and the cost of obtaining additional transcript copies upon request is eliminated. In contrast, the Alt 2 option will be used when the applicant/representative disagrees with the staff recommendation and wants to present an opposing recommendation to the Board. Alt 2 is the current hearing procedure and will remain unchanged but will be designated Alt 2 in the Board Rules and the Disability Retirement procedures. Because the applicant has already acknowledged and agreed to accept the staff recommendation, rather than vote on each application as a separate agenda item the Board could adopt the staff recommendation for Alt 1 cases to be taken as consent items, in open session.

### Discussion

The proposed presentation change will streamline the disability retirement process further and staff is requesting both civilian and Tier 1 Enhanced Disability Retirement applications designated as Alt 1 be placed under the consent agenda. Should the Board have any general administrative questions

regarding an applicant's application, the questions can be heard and addressed within the open session. However, should the Board have specific medically related questions, the case may be deferred to a future closed session, provided the applicant has not been terminated. If the applicant does have a terminated status, medically related questions should not be asked in order to maintain the applicant's privacy.

### Strategic Plan Impact Statement

Approving the moving of all Disability Retirement Alt 1 cases to the consent agenda is in keeping with the Benefits Delivery goal of ensuring accurate and timely delivery of Member benefits. The revised Alt 1 procedure will ensure the fair and consistent review of both civilian and sworn disability retirement applications and benefit awards.

Prepared By: Carol Rembert, Benefits Analyst, Retirement Services Division  
Susann Hernandez, Benefits Analyst, Retirement Services Division

NG:DW:FS:cr/sh