

**FALL RIVER**  
**RETIREMENT SYSTEM**  
**AUDIT REPORT**  
JAN. 1, 2014 - DEC. 31, 2017



**PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT ADMINISTRATION COMMISSION**  
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS



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# PERAC

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS | PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT ADMINISTRATION COMMISSION

PHILIP Y. BROWN, ESQ., *Chairman*

JOHN W. PARSONS, ESQ., *Executive Director*

Auditor SUZANNE M. BUMP | KATHLEEN M. FALLON | KATE FITZPATRICK | JAMES M. MACHADO | ROBERT B. McCARTHY | JENNIFER F. SULLIVAN

July 28, 2021

The Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission has completed an examination of certain activities of the Fall River Retirement System pursuant to G.L. c. 32, § 21. The examination covered the period from January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2017. Based on an assessment in accordance with the policy outlined in PERAC Memo #18/2019, the scope of this audit was modified as noted below and was conducted in accordance with the accounting and management standards established by the Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission in regulation 840 CMR 25.00.

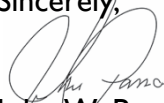
The specific objectives of our audit were to determine: 1) that the Board is exercising appropriate fiduciary oversight, 2) that cash balances are accurately stated, 3) that investment balances are accurately stated, 4) that management fees paid were accurately stated, 5) that travel and credit card expenses were properly documented and accounted for, 6) that retirement contributions are accurately deducted, 7) that retirement allowances were correctly calculated, and 8) that required member documentation is maintained.

To achieve these objectives, we inspected certain records of the Fall River Retirement Board in the above areas. Specifically, we reviewed the minutes of the Board meetings for compliance with fiduciary oversight and verified cash balances, investment balances, and management fees paid. We tested a sample of travel and credit card expenses for Board approvals, supporting documentation, and proper accounting. We tested the payroll records of a sample of active members to confirm that the correct percentage of regular compensation is being deducted, including the additional two percent over \$30,000. We also tested a sample of members who retired during our audit period to verify that their retirement allowance was calculated in accordance with the statute. We reviewed a sample of member files for accuracy and completeness.

In our opinion, for those areas tested, the financial records are being maintained and the management functions are being performed in conformity with the standards established by PERAC with the exceptions noted in the findings presented in this report.

In closing, I acknowledge the work of the auditors who conducted this examination, and express appreciation to the Board and staff for their courtesy and cooperation.

Sincerely,

  
John W. Parsons, Esq.  
Executive Director





# EXPLANATION OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

## **1. Cash/Internal Controls:**

The Fall River Retirement Board maintains two accounts with the Bristol County Savings Bank. The City Treasurer does not perform bank reconciliations for these accounts- instead the Board's Executive Director prepares the reconciliations. There is a further lack of segregation of duties since the Executive Director has the inventory of blank check stock, the Treasurer's signature is embedded in the software used to produce the checks, and the Executive Director is responsible for posting all accounting entries.

During the audit period the year-end cash balances increased from about 0.7% of total assets as of December 31, 2014 to about 4.3% of total assets as of December 31, 2017. The Board does not have an investment policy, which would include a target amount for cash as a percentage of their portfolio.

**Recommendation:** Segregation of duties must be put in place to ensure proper internal controls over cash. The City Treasurer must fulfill their obligation as custodian of the funds to prepare the bank reconciliations on a monthly basis.

Although the Board is primarily invested with PRIM, an investment policy should still be adopted.

### **Board Response:**

The Board will continue to develop and implement internal controls, notably in regards to the matter of segregation of duties. Additionally, the Board will draft an investment policy relative to cash balances deposited with PRIM. Furthermore, the Executive Director will work with the City Treasurer regarding the preparation of the monthly bank reconciliations.

## **2. Active Members' Enrollment Forms and Member Folders:**

There were no folders set up for seven out of 45 active members selected for testing because the Board did not have enrollment forms. The Board used a default date of birth of 11/11/1911 for these members in their database. Further analysis determined that there were 18 members in the database with this date of birth. Seven out of the 18 had creditable service of one year or more. G.L. c.32, Section 3(2)(g) requires enrollment forms to be collected within 30 days of starting work.

**Recommendation:** The Board needs to obtain enrollment forms and set up member folders to collect additional paperwork such as beneficiary forms from all these members.

### **Board Response:**

Staff will continue their efforts in working with various city departments to ensure enrollment forms are obtained from new members in a timely fashion.

## **3. Board Credit Card:**

In our review of expenses, we noted that the Board was using a credit card for travel and purchases of non-travel related items, such as postage and office supplies. The Board does not have a supplementary regulation which authorizes the use of a credit card as required by PERAC regulation 840 CMR 2.11. This regulation also limits the usage of a Board card to travel related expenses; it cannot be used for supplies or other items purchased on a regular basis.

## EXPLANATION OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS (CONTINUED)

**Recommendation:** The Board should suspend all usage of the credit card pending the submission and approval of a credit card regulation. Once a regulation is approved the credit card should only be used for travel related purposes.

**Board Response:**

The Board will immediately suspend use of the credit card for non-travel related expenses. Additionally, the Board will draft a credit card policy for PERAC review/approval. That being said, the Board would like to respectfully note that it is growing increasingly difficult to purchase items from certain vendors with checks given the current environment as some businesses no longer accept checks.

**FINAL DETERMINATION:**

***PERAC Audit staff will follow up in six (6) months to ensure appropriate actions have been taken regarding all findings.***



# ANNUAL STATEMENTS (as submitted)

## STATEMENT OF LEDGER ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

	AS OF DECEMBER 31,			
	2017	2016	2015	2014
<b>Net Assets Available For Benefits:</b>				
Cash	\$11,987,863	\$7,982,694	\$9,882,470	\$1,802,139
Pooled Alternative Investment Funds	2,520,739	3,539,500	4,216,432	5,089,311
PRIT Cash Fund	0	105	0	0
PRIT Core Fund	258,631,913	237,892,772	224,331,393	228,541,209
Prepaid Expenses	4,324	4,324	4,324	4,324
Accounts Receivable	8,333,845	522,740	1,461,977	9,557,445
Accounts Payable	(19,807)	(4,227)	(1,802)	(6,123)
<b>Total</b>	<u>\$281,458,876</u>	<u>\$249,937,908</u>	<u>\$239,894,795</u>	<u>\$244,988,304</u>
<b>Fund Balances:</b>				
Annuity Savings Fund	\$78,461,363	\$76,958,670	\$76,056,753	\$74,289,629
Annuity Reserve Fund	30,567,316	31,146,127	30,661,574	30,989,688
Pension Fund	13,293,274	13,438,938	13,734,204	14,905,034
Military Service Fund	80,268	80,188	80,107	80,027
Expense Fund	0	0	0	0
Pension Reserve Fund	159,056,655	128,313,986	119,362,157	124,723,926
<b>Total</b>	<u>\$281,458,876</u>	<u>\$249,937,908</u>	<u>\$239,894,795</u>	<u>\$244,988,304</u>

## ANNUAL STATEMENTS (as submitted) (Continued)

### STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES

	Annuity Savings Fund	Annuity Reserve Fund	Pension Fund	Military Service Fund	Expense Fund	Pension Reserve Fund	Total All Funds
Beginning Balance 2014	\$74,568,223	\$28,694,378	\$15,475,106	\$71,159	\$0	\$116,155,374	\$234,964,241
Receipts	7,297,618	892,128	24,669,477	8,868	1,698,430	15,594,921	50,161,442
Interfund Transfers	(6,471,742)	6,476,736	7,021,376	0	0	(7,026,369)	0
Disbursements	(1,104,470)	(5,073,554)	(32,260,925)	0	(1,698,430)	0	(40,137,379)
Ending Balance 2014	74,289,629	30,989,688	14,905,034	80,027	0	124,723,926	244,988,304
Receipts	7,162,243	929,377	26,249,653	80	1,727,097	1,020,403	37,088,853
Interfund Transfers	(4,160,018)	4,049,248	6,492,943	0	0	(6,382,172)	0
Disbursements	(1,235,100)	(5,306,739)	(33,913,426)	0	(1,727,097)	0	(42,182,363)
Ending Balance 2015	76,056,753	30,661,574	13,734,204	80,107	0	119,362,157	239,894,795
Receipts	7,446,780	922,615	27,748,867	80	1,763,807	15,335,108	53,217,258
Interfund Transfers	(5,135,501)	5,137,277	6,381,503	0	0	(6,383,279)	0
Disbursements	(1,409,363)	(5,575,339)	(34,425,636)	0	(1,763,807)	0	(43,174,145)
Ending Balance 2016	76,958,670	31,146,127	13,438,938	80,188	0	128,313,986	249,937,908
Receipts	7,428,214	920,812	29,729,721	80	1,871,335	37,167,554	77,117,716
Interfund Transfers	(4,640,466)	4,640,466	6,424,885	0	0	(6,424,885)	0
Disbursements	(1,285,055)	(6,140,088)	(36,300,270)	0	(1,871,335)	0	(45,596,748)
Ending Balance 2017	<u>\$78,461,363</u>	<u>\$30,567,316</u>	<u>\$13,293,274</u>	<u>\$80,268</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$159,056,655</u>	<u>\$281,458,876</u>

# ANNUAL STATEMENTS (as submitted) (Continued)

## STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS

	FOR THE PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31,			
	2017	2016	2015	2014
<b>Annuity Savings Fund:</b>				
Members Deductions	\$6,986,752	\$6,927,293	\$6,880,583	\$6,965,321
Transfers from Other Systems	168,663	328,698	142,643	172,869
Member Make Up Payments and Re-deposits	152,525	29,708	32,427	54,320
Member Payments from Rollovers	20,582	66,169	19,574	11,067
Investment Income Credited to Member Accounts	<u>99,692</u>	<u>94,913</u>	<u>87,016</u>	<u>94,041</u>
Sub Total	<u>7,428,214</u>	<u>7,446,780</u>	<u>7,162,243</u>	<u>7,297,618</u>
<b>Annuity Reserve Fund:</b>				
Recovery of Annuity from Reinstatement	0	0	8,811	5,556
Investment Income Credited to the Annuity Reserve Fund	<u>920,812</u>	<u>922,615</u>	<u>920,566</u>	<u>886,572</u>
Sub Total	<u>920,812</u>	<u>922,615</u>	<u>929,377</u>	<u>892,128</u>
<b>Pension Fund:</b>				
3 (8) (c) Reimbursements from Other Systems Received from Commonwealth for COLA and Survivor Benefits	428,898	574,032	230,153	337,938
Pension Fund Appropriation	512,380	394,656	835,109	618,803
Settlement of Workers' Compensation Claims	28,763,000	26,749,593	25,145,749	23,688,099
Recovery of Pension from Reinstatement	16,500	10,600	15,500	11,400
Recovery of 91A Overearnings	0	0	19,251	13,237
	<u>8,943</u>	<u>19,986</u>	<u>3,890</u>	<u>0</u>
Sub Total	<u>29,729,721</u>	<u>27,748,867</u>	<u>26,249,653</u>	<u>24,669,477</u>
<b>Military Service Fund:</b>				
Contribution Received from Municipality on Account of Military Service	0	0	0	8,773
Investment Income Credited to the Military Service Fund	<u>80</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>95</u>
Sub Total	<u>80</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>8,868</u>
<b>Expense Fund:</b>				
Investment Income Credited to the Expense Fund	<u>1,871,335</u>	<u>1,763,807</u>	<u>1,727,097</u>	<u>1,698,430</u>
<b>Pension Reserve Fund:</b>				
Federal Grant Reimbursement	12,290	308,407	360,537	324,901
Interest Not Refunded	7,258	839	4,443	2,317
Miscellaneous Income	547	11,134	2,871	3,977
Excess Investment Income	<u>37,147,459</u>	<u>15,014,729</u>	<u>652,551</u>	<u>15,263,725</u>
Sub Total	<u>37,167,554</u>	<u>15,335,108</u>	<u>1,020,403</u>	<u>15,594,921</u>
<b>Total Receipts, Net</b>	<u><u>\$77,117,716</u></u>	<u><u>\$53,217,258</u></u>	<u><u>\$37,088,853</u></u>	<u><u>\$50,161,442</u></u>

# ANNUAL STATEMENTS (as submitted) (Continued)

## STATEMENT OF DISBURSEMENTS

FOR THE PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31,				
	2017	2016	2015	2014
<b>Annuity Savings Fund:</b>				
Refunds to Members	\$764,715	\$774,378	\$670,868	\$674,921
Transfers to Other Systems	<u>520,340</u>	<u>634,985</u>	<u>564,232</u>	<u>429,549</u>
Sub Total	<u>1,285,055</u>	<u>1,409,363</u>	<u>1,235,100</u>	<u>1,104,470</u>
<b>Annuity Reserve Fund:</b>				
Annuities Paid	5,834,596	5,542,914	5,285,833	4,934,383
Option B Refunds	<u>305,492</u>	<u>32,425</u>	<u>20,906</u>	<u>139,170</u>
Sub Total	<u>6,140,088</u>	<u>5,575,339</u>	<u>5,306,739</u>	<u>5,073,554</u>
<b>Pension Fund:</b>				
Pensions Paid:				
Regular Pension Payments	21,914,165	21,177,785	20,575,631	19,517,604
Survivorship Payments	1,640,057	1,625,031	1,644,829	1,647,281
Ordinary Disability Payments	644,068	626,300	637,194	649,058
Accidental Disability Payments	6,857,048	6,708,867	6,434,541	6,261,661
Accidental Death Payments	1,731,027	1,840,173	1,901,411	1,966,109
Section 101 Benefits	424,789	392,013	421,724	387,970
3 (8) (c) Reimbursements to Other Systems	<u>3,089,115</u>	<u>2,055,467</u>	<u>2,298,097</u>	<u>1,831,241</u>
Sub Total	<u>36,300,270</u>	<u>34,425,636</u>	<u>33,913,426</u>	<u>32,260,925</u>
<b>Expense Fund:</b>				
Board Member Stipend	15,000	15,000	15,000	13,617
Salaries	231,949	240,858	230,259	211,856
Legal Expenses	52,796	43,073	62,359	29,379
Medical Expenses	73,214	67,425	65,090	61,635
Travel Expenses	6,594	7,001	8,149	5,346
Administrative Expenses	26,135	18,355	22,124	29,197
Education and Training	4,100	3,800	3,350	3,090
Furniture and Equipment	1,510	565	129	5,106
Management Fees	1,320,949	1,256,803	1,213,795	1,234,050
Rent Expenses	51,884	51,884	51,884	51,884
Service Contracts	63,473	35,648	32,254	31,177
Fiduciary Insurance	<u>23,730</u>	<u>23,397</u>	<u>22,704</u>	<u>22,093</u>
Sub Total	<u>1,871,335</u>	<u>1,763,807</u>	<u>1,727,097</u>	<u>1,698,430</u>
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<u>\$45,596,748</u>	<u>\$43,174,145</u>	<u>\$42,182,363</u>	<u>\$40,137,379</u>

# ANNUAL STATEMENTS (as submitted) (Continued)

## INVESTMENT INCOME

	FOR THE PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31,			
	2017	2016	2015	2014
<b>Investment Income Received From:</b>				
Cash	\$5,377	\$4,134	\$806	\$0
Pooled or Mutual Funds	<u>6,853,714</u>	<u>6,545,189</u>	<u>6,082,703</u>	<u>6,382,528</u>
<b>Total Investment Income</b>	<u>6,859,091</u>	<u>6,549,323</u>	<u>6,083,509</u>	<u>6,382,528</u>
<b>Plus:</b>				
Realized Gains	11,512,124	6,816,656	8,809,118	10,690,628
Unrealized Gains	<u>22,103,326</u>	<u>19,762,033</u>	<u>11,815,334</u>	<u>14,477,797</u>
Sub Total	<u>33,615,450</u>	<u>26,578,689</u>	<u>20,624,452</u>	<u>25,168,425</u>
<b>Less:</b>				
Realized Loss	0	126,721	106,300	0
Unrealized Loss	<u>435,163</u>	<u>15,205,147</u>	<u>23,214,351</u>	<u>13,608,090</u>
Sub Total	<u>435,163</u>	<u>15,331,868</u>	<u>23,320,651</u>	<u>13,608,090</u>
<b>Net Investment Income</b>	<u>40,039,377</u>	<u>17,796,145</u>	<u>3,387,311</u>	<u>17,942,864</u>
<b>Income Required:</b>				
Annuity Savings Fund	99,692	94,913	87,016	94,041
Annuity Reserve Fund	920,812	922,615	920,566	886,572
Military Service Fund	80	80	80	95
Expense Fund	<u>1,871,335</u>	<u>1,763,807</u>	<u>1,727,097</u>	<u>1,698,430</u>
<b>Total Income Required</b>	<u>2,891,919</u>	<u>2,781,416</u>	<u>2,734,759</u>	<u>2,679,139</u>
Net Investment Income	<u>40,039,377</u>	<u>17,796,145</u>	<u>3,387,311</u>	<u>17,942,864</u>
Less: Total Income Required	<u>2,891,919</u>	<u>2,781,416</u>	<u>2,734,759</u>	<u>2,679,139</u>
<b>Excess Income To The Pension Reserve Fund</b>	<u>\$37,147,459</u>	<u>\$15,014,729</u>	<u>\$652,551</u>	<u>\$15,263,725</u>

## SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

### SCHEDULE OF ALLOCATION OF INVESTMENTS OWNED

(percentages by category)

AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2017		
	MARKET VALUE	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL ASSETS
Cash	\$11,987,863	4.4%
Pooled Alternative Investment Funds	2,520,739	0.9%
PRIT Core Fund	<u>258,631,913</u>	<u>94.7%</u>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<u>\$273,140,514</u>	<u>100.0%</u>

For the year ending December 31, 2017, the rate of return for the investments of the Fall River Retirement System was 16.95%. For the five-year period ending December 31, 2017, the rate of return for the investments of the Fall River Retirement System averaged 9.71%. For the 33-year period ending December 31, 2017, since PERAC began evaluating the returns of the retirement systems, the rate of return on the investments of the Fall River Retirement System was 8.54%.

The composite rate of return for all retirement systems for the year ending December 31, 2017 was 17.63%. For the five-year period ending December 31, 2017, the composite rate of return for the investments of all retirement systems averaged 9.83%. For the 33-year period ending December 31, 2017, since PERAC began evaluating the returns of the retirement systems, the composite rate of return on the investments of all retirement systems averaged 9.36%.

## SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION (Continued)

### SUMMARY OF PLAN PROVISIONS

The plan is a contributory defined benefit plan covering all Fall River Retirement System member unit employees deemed eligible by the retirement board, with the exception of school department employees who serve in a teaching capacity. The Teachers' Retirement Board administers the pensions of such school employees.

### ADMINISTRATION

There are 104 contributory retirement systems for public employees in Massachusetts. Each system is governed by a retirement board and all boards, although operating independently, are governed by Chapter 32 of the Massachusetts General Laws. This law in general provides uniform benefits, uniform contribution requirements and a uniform accounting and funds structure for all systems.

### PARTICIPATION

Participation is mandatory for all full-time employees. Eligibility with respect to part-time, provisional, temporary, seasonal or intermittent employment is governed by regulations promulgated by the retirement board, and approved by PERAC. Membership is optional for certain elected officials.

There are 4 classes of membership in the retirement system, but one of these classes, Group 3, is made up exclusively of the State Police. The other 3 classes are as follows:

#### **Group 1:**

General employees, including clerical, administrative, technical and all other employees not otherwise classified.

#### **Group 2:**

Certain specified hazardous duty positions.

#### **Group 4:**

Police officers, firefighters, and other specified hazardous positions.

## SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION (Continued)

### MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS

Member contributions vary depending on the most recent date of membership:

Prior to 1975:	5% of regular compensation
1975 - 1983:	7% of regular compensation
1984 to 6/30/96:	8% of regular compensation
7/1/96 to present:	9% of regular compensation
1979 to present:	an additional 2% of regular compensation in excess of \$30,000.

In addition, members of Group 1 who join the system on or after April 2, 2012 will have their withholding rate reduced to 6% after achieving 30 years of creditable service.

### RATE OF INTEREST

Interest on regular deductions made after January 1, 1984 is a rate established by PERAC in consultation with the Commissioner of Banks. The rate is obtained from the average rates paid on individual savings accounts by a representative sample of at least 10 financial institutions.

### RETIREMENT AGE

The mandatory retirement age for some Group 2 and Group 4 employees is age 65. Most Group 2 and Group 4 members may remain in service after reaching age 65. Group 4 members who are employed in certain public safety positions are required to retire at age 65. There is no mandatory retirement age for employees in Group 1.

### SUPERANNUATION RETIREMENT

A person who became a member before April 2, 2012 is eligible for a superannuation retirement allowance (service retirement) upon meeting the following conditions:

- completion of 20 years of service, or
- attainment of age 55 if hired prior to 1978, or if classified in Group 4, or
- attainment of age 55 with 10 years of service, if hired after 1978, and if classified in Group 1 or 2.

A person who became a member on or after April 2, 2012 is eligible for a superannuation retirement allowance (service retirement) upon meeting the following conditions:

- attainment of age 60 with 10 years of service if classified in Group 1, or
- attainment of age 55 with 10 years of service if classified in Group 2, or
- attainment of age 55 if classified in Group 4.



## SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION (Continued)

### AMOUNT OF BENEFIT

A member's annual allowance is determined by multiplying average salary by a benefit rate related to the member's age and job classification at retirement, and the resulting product by his creditable service. The amount determined by the benefit formula cannot exceed 80% of the member's highest three year (or five year as discussed below) average salary. For veterans as defined in G.L. c. 32, s. 1, there is an additional benefit of \$15 per year for each year of creditable service, up to a maximum of \$300.

For employees who become members after January 1, 2011, regular compensation is limited to 64% of the federal limit found in 26 U.S.C. 401(a)(17). In addition, regular compensation will be limited to prohibit "spiking" of a member's salary to increase the retirement benefit.

- For persons who became members prior to April 2, 2012, Average Salary is the average annual rate of regular compensation received during the 3 consecutive years that produce the highest average, or, if greater, during the last 3 years (whether or not consecutive) preceding retirement.
- For persons who became members on or after April 2, 2012, Average Salary is the average annual rate of regular compensation received during the 5 consecutive years that produce the highest average, or, if greater, during the last 5 years (whether or not consecutive) preceding retirement.
- The Benefit Rate varies with the member's retirement age. For persons who became members prior to April 2, 2012 the highest rate of 2.5% applies to Group 1 employees who retire at or after age 65, Group 2 employees who retire at or after age 60, and to Group 4 employees who retire at or after age 55. A .1% reduction is applied for each year of age under the maximum age for the member's group. For Group 2 employees who terminate from service under age 55, the benefit rate for a Group 1 employee shall be used.
- For persons who became members on or after April 2, 2012 and retire with less than 30 years of creditable service, the highest rate of 2.5% applies to Group 1 employees who retire at or after age 67, Group 2 employees who retire at or after age 62, and to Group 4 employees who retire at or after age 57. A .15% reduction is applied for each year of age under the maximum age for the member's group.
- For persons who became members on or after April 2, 2012 and retire with more than 30 years of creditable service, the highest rate of 2.5% applies to Group 1 employees who retire at or after age 67, Group 2 employees who retire at or after age 62, and to Group 4 employees who retire at or after age 57. A .125% reduction is applied for each year of age under the maximum age for the member's group.

### DEFERRED VESTED BENEFIT

A participant who has attained the requisite years of creditable service can elect to defer his or her retirement until a later date. Certain public safety employees cannot defer beyond age 65. All participants must begin to receive a retirement allowance or withdraw their accumulated deductions no later than April 15 of the calendar year following the year they reach age 72.

## SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION (Continued)

### WITHDRAWAL OF CONTRIBUTIONS

Member contributions may be withdrawn upon termination of employment. The interest rate for employees who first become members on or after January 1, 1984 who voluntarily withdraw their contributions with less than 10 years of service will be 3%. Interest payable on all other withdrawals will be set at regular interest.

### DISABILITY RETIREMENT

The Massachusetts Retirement Plan provides 2 types of disability retirement benefits:

#### ORDINARY DISABILITY

**Eligibility:** Non-veterans who become totally and permanently disabled by reason of a non-job related condition with at least 10 years of creditable service (or 15 years creditable service in systems in which the local option contained in G.L. c. 32, s. 6(1) has not been adopted).

Veterans with ten years of creditable service who become totally and permanently disabled by reason of a non-job related condition prior to reaching "maximum age". "Maximum age" applies only to those employees classified in Group 4 who are subject to mandatory retirement.

**Retirement Allowance:** For persons who became members prior to April 2, 2012, the benefit is equal to the accrued superannuation retirement benefit as if the member was age 55. If the member is a veteran, the benefit is 50% of the member's final rate of salary during the preceding 12 months, plus an annuity based upon accumulated member contributions plus credited interest. If the member is over age 55, he or she will receive not less than the superannuation allowance to which he or she is entitled.

For persons in Group 1 who became members on or after April 2, 2012, the benefit is equal to the accrued superannuation retirement benefit as if the member was age 60. If the member is a veteran, the benefit is 50% of the member's final rate of salary during the preceding 12 months, plus an annuity based upon accumulated member contributions plus credited interest. If the member is over age 60, he or she will receive not less than the superannuation allowance to which he or she would have been entitled had they retired for superannuation.

For persons in Group 2 and Group 4 who became members on or after April 2, 2012, the benefit is equal to the accrued superannuation retirement benefit as if the member was age 55. If the member is a veteran, the benefit is 50% of the member's final rate of salary during the preceding 12 months, plus an annuity based upon accumulated member contributions plus credited interest. If the member is over age 55, he or she will receive not less than the superannuation allowance to which he or she would have been entitled had they retired for superannuation.

## SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION (Continued)

### ACCIDENTAL DISABILITY

**Eligibility:** Applies to members who become permanently and totally unable to perform the essential duties of the position as a result of a personal injury sustained or hazard undergone while in the performance of duties. There are no minimum age or service requirements.

**Retirement Allowance:** 72% of salary plus an annuity based on accumulated member contributions, with interest. This amount is not to exceed 100% of pay. For those who became members in service after January 1, 1988 or who have not been members in service continually since that date, the amount is limited to 75% of pay. There is an additional pension of \$897.72 per year (or \$312.00 per year in systems in which the local option contained in G.L. c. 32, s. 7(2)(a)(iii) has not been adopted), per child who is under 18 at the time of the member's retirement, with no age limitation if the child is mentally or physically incapacitated from earning. The additional pension may continue up to age 22 for any child who is a full time student at an accredited educational institution. For systems that have adopted Chapter 157 of the Acts of 2005, veterans as defined in G.L. c. 32, s. 1 receive an additional benefit of \$15 per year for each year of creditable service, up to a maximum of \$300.

### ACCIDENTAL DEATH

**Eligibility:** Applies to members who die as a result of a work-related injury or if the member was retired for accidental disability and the death was the natural and proximate result of the injury or hazard undergone on account of which such member was retired.

**Allowance:** An immediate payment to a named beneficiary equal to the accumulated deductions at the time of death, plus a pension equal to 72% of current salary and payable to the surviving spouse, dependent children or the dependent parent, plus a supplement of \$897.72 per year, per child (or \$312.00 per year in systems in which the local option contained in G.L. c. 32, s. 9(2)(d)(ii) has not been adopted), payable to the spouse or legal guardian until all dependent children reach age 18 or 22 if a full time student, unless mentally or physically incapacitated.

The surviving spouse of a member of a police or fire department or any corrections officer who, under specific and limited circumstances detailed in the statute, suffers an accident and is killed or sustains injuries while in the performance of his duties that results in his death, may receive a pension equal to the maximum salary for the position held by the member upon his death. In addition, an eligible family member may receive a one-time payment of \$300,000.00 from the State Retirement Board. This lump sum payment is also available to the family of a public prosecutor in certain, limited circumstances.

## SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION (Continued)

### DEATH AFTER ACCIDENTAL DISABILITY RETIREMENT

Effective November 7, 1996, Accidental Disability retirees were allowed to select Option C at retirement and provide a benefit for an eligible survivor. For Accidental Disability retirees prior to November 7, 1996, who could not select Option C, if the member's death is from a cause unrelated to the condition for which the member received accidental disability benefits, a surviving spouse will receive an annual allowance of \$6,000. For Systems that accept the provisions of Section 28 of Chapter 131 of the Acts of 2010, the amount of this benefit is \$9,000. For Systems that accept the provisions of Section 63 of Chapter 139 of the Acts of 2012, the amount of this benefit is \$12,000.

### DEATH IN ACTIVE SERVICE (OPTION D)

**Allowance:** An immediate allowance equal to that which would have been payable had the member retired and selected Option C on the day before his or her death. For a member who became a member prior to April 2, 2012 whose death occurred prior to the member's superannuation retirement age, the age 55 benefit rate is used. For a member classified in Group 1 who became a member on or after April 2, 2012 whose death occurred prior to the member's superannuation retirement age, the age 60 benefit rate is used. If the member died after age 60, the actual age is used. For a member classified in Group 2 or Group 4, whose death occurred prior to the member's minimum superannuation retirement age, the benefit shall be calculated using an age 55 age factor. The minimum annual allowance payable to the surviving spouse of a member in service who dies with at least two years of creditable service is \$3,000 unless the retirement system has accepted the local option increasing this minimum annual allowance to \$6,000, provided that the member and the spouse were married for at least one year and living together on the member's date of death.

The surviving spouse of such a member in service receives an additional allowance equal to the sum of \$1,440 per year for the first child and \$1,080 per year for each additional child until all dependent children reach age 18 or 22 if a full time student, unless mentally or physically incapacitated.

### COST OF LIVING

If a system has accepted Chapter 17 of the Acts of 1997, and the Retirement Board votes to pay a cost of living increase (COLA) for that year, the percentage is determined based on the increase in the Consumer Price Index used for indexing Social Security benefits, but cannot exceed 3.0%. Section 51 of Chapter 127 of the Acts of 1999, if accepted, allows boards to grant COLA increases greater than that determined by CPI but not to exceed 3.0%. Only a certain portion of a retiree's total allowance is subject to a COLA. The total COLA for periods from 1981 through 1996 is paid for by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Under the provisions of Chapter 32, Section 103(j) inserted by Section 19 of Chapter 188 of the Acts of 2010, systems may increase the maximum base on which the COLA is calculated in multiples of \$1,000. For many years the COLA base was calculated based upon the first \$12,000 of a retiree's allowance. Now the maximum base upon which the COLA is calculated varies from system to system. Each increase in the base must be accepted by a majority vote of the Retirement Board and approved by the legislative body.

## SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION (Continued)

### METHODS OF PAYMENT

A member may elect to receive his or her retirement allowance in one of 3 forms of payment.

**Option A:** Total annual allowance, payable in monthly installments, commencing at retirement and terminating at the member's death.

**Option B:** A reduced annual allowance, payable in monthly installments, commencing at retirement and terminating at the death of the member, provided, however, that if the total amount of the annuity portion received by the member is less than the amount of his or her accumulated deductions, including interest, the difference or balance of his accumulated deductions will be paid in a lump sum to the retiree's beneficiary or beneficiaries of choice.

**Option C:** A reduced annual allowance, payable in monthly installments, commencing at retirement. At the death of the retired employee, 2/3 of the allowance is payable to the member's designated beneficiary (who may be the spouse, or former spouse who has not remarried, child, parent, sister, or brother of the employee) for the life of the beneficiary. For members who retired on or after January 12, 1988, if the beneficiary pre-deceases the retiree, the benefit payable increases (or "pops up" to Option A) based on the factor used to determine the Option C benefit at retirement. For members who retired prior to January 12, 1988, if the System has accepted Section 288 of Chapter 194 of the Acts of 1998 and the beneficiary pre-deceases the retiree, the benefit payable "pops up" to Option A in the same fashion. The Option C became available to accidental disability retirees on November 7, 1996.

### ALLOCATION OF PENSION COSTS

If a member's total creditable service was partly earned by employment in more than one retirement system, the cost of the "pension portion" is allocated between the different systems pro rata based on the member's service within each retirement system. In certain circumstances, if a member received regular compensation concurrently from two or more systems on or after January 1, 2010, and was not vested in both systems as of January 1, 2010, such a pro-ration may not be undertaken. This is because such a person may receive a separate retirement allowance from each system.

## SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION (Continued)

### SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The accounting records of the System are maintained on a calendar year basis in accordance with the standards and procedures established by the Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission.

Cash accounts are considered to be funds on deposit with banks and are available upon demand.

Short Term Investments are highly liquid investments that will mature within twelve months from the date of acquisition.

Investments are reported at their fair value. Securities traded on recognized exchanges are valued at the most recent sales price at year end. If no sale was reported, the mean of the bid and asked price is used when available, or the most recent bid price. Mutual, commingled and pooled funds are valued based on the net asset or unit value at year end. Real estate and alternative investments are valued based on estimates provided by the managers of those respective investments. Purchases and sales of securities are reflected on the date the trade is initiated. Realized gain or loss is largely based on the difference between the cost or the value at the prior year end and the funds realized upon liquidation. Dividend income is generally recorded when received. Interest income is recorded as earned on an accrual basis. Income from alternative investments is recorded as reported by the managing partner. Appreciation or depreciation in the value of investments consists of the unrealized gains and losses reported as the difference between the previous period and the current value.

The system makes estimates and assumptions that affect the reported values of assets and liabilities and the reported amounts added and deducted during the reporting periods. The fair value of real estate and alternative investment holdings are generally estimated in the absence of reliable exchange values. The actual funds realized upon liquidation may differ from these estimates.

The provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 32, § 23(2) generally govern the investment practices of the system. The Board primarily relies upon the investment strategy of the PRIM Board to maintain their progress toward full funding of the system. That strategy seeks to balance the exposure to common deposit and investment risks related to custody, credit concentrations, interest rate and foreign currency fluctuations.

Operating expenses include the ordinary and necessary cost of investment and professional services and the other miscellaneous administrative expenses of the system.

## SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION (Continued)

The Annuity Savings Fund is the fund in which members' contributions are deposited. Voluntary contributions, re-deposits, and transfers to and from other systems, are also accounted for in this fund. Members' contributions to the fund earn interest at a rate determined by PERAC. Interest for some members who withdraw with less than ten years of service is transferred to the Pension Reserve Fund. Upon retirement, members' contributions and interest are transferred to the Annuity Reserve Fund. Dormant account balances must be transferred to the Pension Reserve Fund after a period of ten years of inactivity.

The Annuity Reserve Fund is the fund to which a member's account is transferred upon retirement from the Annuity Savings Fund and Special Military Service Credit Fund. The annuity portion of the retirement allowance is paid from this fund. Interest is credited monthly to this fund at the rate of 3% annually on the previous month's balance.

The Special Military Service Credit Fund contains contributions and interest for members while on a military leave for service in the Armed Forces who will receive creditable service for the period of that leave.

The Expense Fund contains amounts transferred from investment income for the purposes of administering the retirement system.

The Pension Fund contains the amounts appropriated by the governmental units as established by PERAC to pay the pension portion of each retirement allowance.

The Pension Reserve Fund contains amounts appropriated by the governmental units for the purposes of funding future retirement benefits. Any profit or loss realized on the sale or maturity of any investment or on the unrealized gain of a market valued investment as of the valuation date is credited to the Pension Reserve Fund. Additionally, any investment income in excess of the amount required to credit interest to the Annuity Savings Fund, Annuity Reserve Fund, and Special Military Service Credit Fund is credited to this Reserve account.

The Investment Income Account is credited with all income derived from interest and dividends of invested funds. At year-end the interest credited to the Annuity Savings Fund, Annuity Reserve Fund, Expense Fund, and Special Military Service Credit Fund is distributed from this account and the remaining balance is transferred to the Pension Reserve Fund.

## SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION (Continued)

### ADMINISTRATION OF THE SYSTEM

The System is administered by a five-person Board of Retirement consisting of the City Auditor who shall be a member ex-officio, a second member appointed by the governing authority, a third and fourth member who shall be elected by the members in or retired from the service of such system, and a fifth member appointed by the other four board members.

Ex-officio Member: Jennifer M. Argo

Appointed Member: Mark Nassif, Jr. Serves until a successor is appointed

Elected Member: Robert Camara Term Expires: 12/31/2020 (election postponed)

Elected Member: David Machado Term Expires: 12/11/2022

Appointed Member: Arthur Viana, Chairperson Term Expires: 01/31/2024

The Board members are required to meet at least once a month. The Board must keep a record of all of its proceedings. The Board must annually submit to the appropriate authority an estimate of the expenses of administration and cost of operation of the system. The board must annually file a financial statement of condition for the system with the Executive Director of PERAC.

The investment of the system's funds is the responsibility of the Board. All retirement allowances must be approved by the Retirement Board. The PERAC Actuary performs verification prior to payment, unless the system has obtained a waiver for superannuation calculations allowing them to bypass this requirement. All expenses incurred by the System must be approved by a majority vote of the Board. Payments shall be made only upon vouchers signed by two persons designated by the Board.

Retirement board members and employees are bonded by an authorized agent representing a company licensed to do business in Massachusetts. Fidelity insurance is the only required policy coverage under Ch. 32 §21 and §23 as well as 840 CMR 17.01. The policy is designed to cover specific intentional acts such as theft, fraud or embezzlement and also specify who commits such acts, most commonly employees of the system. This coverage reimburses the system for the losses it suffers as a result of its employees' actions. It does not insure the employees for their illegal acts. Statutorily required coverage is provided by the current fidelity insurance policy to a limit of \$1,000,000 with a \$10,000 deductible issued through Travelers Casualty and Surety Company. The system also has Fiduciary coverage to a limit of \$50,000,000 under a blanket policy issued through the Massachusetts Association of Contributory Retirement Systems.

### BOARD REGULATIONS

The Fall River Retirement Board has adopted Supplemental Regulations which are available on the PERAC website at <https://www.mass.gov/fall-river-retirement-board-regulations>



## SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION (Continued)

### ACTUARIAL VALUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

The most recent actuarial valuation of the System was prepared by the Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission as of January 1, 2019.

The actuarial liability for active members was	\$244,962,441
The actuarial liability for vested terminated members was	5,928,318
The actuarial liability for non-vested terminated members was	1,720,982
The actuarial liability for retired members was	<u>415,780,563</u>
The total actuarial liability was	\$668,392,304
System assets as of that date were (actuarial value)	<u>279,629,090</u>
The unfunded actuarial liability was	<u><u>\$388,763,214</u></u>
The ratio of system's assets to total actuarial liability was	41.8%
As of that date the total covered employee payroll was	\$77,561,586

The normal cost for employees on that date was	9.0% of payroll
The normal cost for the employer including administrative expenses was	8.7% of payroll

The principal actuarial assumptions used in the valuation are as follows:

Investment Return:	7.25% per annum
Rate of Salary Increase:	Service based table with ultimate rates 4.25%, 4.50% and 4.75% for groups 1, 2 and 4 respectively.

### SCHEDULE OF FUNDING PROGRESS AS OF JANUARY 1, 2019

Actuarial Valuation Date	Actuarial Value of Assets (a)	Actuarial Accrued Liability* (b)	Unfunded AAL (UAAL) (b-a)	Funded Ratio (a/b)	Covered Payroll (c)	UAAL as a % of Cov. Payroll ((b-a)/c)
1/1/2019	\$279,629,090	\$668,392,304	\$388,763,214	41.8%	\$77,561,586	501.2%
1/1/2017	\$256,901,507	\$611,937,750	\$355,036,243	42.0%	\$72,431,937	490.2%
1/1/2015	\$236,647,157	\$573,411,111	\$336,763,954	41.3%	\$73,759,938	456.6%
1/1/2013	\$209,774,679	\$522,108,817	\$312,334,138	40.2%	\$71,991,123	433.9%
1/1/2011	\$221,384,455	\$480,334,238	\$258,949,783	46.1%	\$69,236,199	374.0%

\*excludes State reimbursed COLA

## SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION (Continued)

### MEMBERSHIP EXHIBIT

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Retirement in Past Years</b>										
Superannuation	69	66	66	67	60	48	83	48	59	35
Ordinary Disability	2	2	1	5	1	4	2	0	1	0
Accidental Disability	4	10	5	10	2	3	2	3	3	6
<b>Total Retirements</b>	75	78	72	82	63	55	87	51	63	41
Total Retirees, Beneficiaries and Survivors	1,500	1,500	1,513	1,516	1,521	1,537	1,565	1,554	1,563	1,537
Total Active Members	1,772	1,472	1,467	1,626	1,633	1,685	1,626	1,547	1,554	1,532
<b>Pension Payments</b>										
Superannuation	\$14,022,374	\$14,920,045	\$16,168,017	\$17,041,046	\$17,774,328	\$18,493,271	\$19,517,604	\$20,575,631	\$21,177,785	\$21,914,165
Survivor/Beneficiary Payments	1,421,684	1,446,049	1,549,054	1,542,795	1,613,650	1,599,589	1,647,281	1,644,829	1,625,031	1,640,057
Ordinary Disability	494,692	552,250	553,288	567,457	558,592	631,807	649,058	637,194	626,300	644,068
Accidental Disability	5,250,939	5,465,552	5,739,926	6,052,062	6,210,553	6,210,530	6,261,661	6,434,541	6,708,867	6,857,048
Other	<u>3,294,067</u>	<u>3,599,194</u>	<u>3,674,307</u>	<u>3,562,968</u>	<u>3,661,070</u>	<u>3,933,802</u>	<u>4,185,321</u>	<u>4,621,232</u>	<u>4,287,654</u>	<u>5,244,931</u>
<b>Total Payments for Year</b>	<u>\$24,483,756</u>	<u>\$25,983,090</u>	<u>\$27,684,592</u>	<u>\$28,766,328</u>	<u>\$29,818,193</u>	<u>\$30,868,999</u>	<u>\$32,260,925</u>	<u>\$33,913,426</u>	<u>\$34,425,636</u>	<u>\$36,300,270</u>

## SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION (Continued)

### LEASED PREMISES

The Fall River Retirement Board leased approximately 3,052 square feet of space for its offices located at Suites 301 and 304, 30 Third Street, Fall River. They signed an initial lease for a 5-year term (\$17.00 per sq. ft.) which expired October 31, 2013. A 5- year extension expired October 31, 2018. The landlord was MKM Management LLC.

The Board currently leases approximately 1,615 square feet of office space at 21 Father DeValles Boulevard, Suite GR101, Fall River. They signed a 7-year lease beginning October 1, 2018 and expiring September 30, 2025. The landlord is Clover Leaf Mills, LLC.

The following schedule displays the minimum lease obligations on non-cancelable operating leases as of December 31, 2017:

<u>For the year ending:</u>	<u>Annual Rent</u>
2018	\$49,825.80
2019	\$26,356.80
2020	\$26,356.80
2021	\$26,356.80
2022	\$26,356.80
2023	\$26,850.78
2024	\$28,332.72
2025 (through September 30)	<u>\$21,249.54</u>
Total future minimum lease payments required	<u>\$231,686.04</u>

Note: A Security Deposit equal to one month's rent, \$2,196.40, was paid along with the first month's rent in August 2018.

A decorative graphic consisting of several overlapping geometric shapes. A large, light green diagonal band runs from the top-left towards the bottom-right. A horizontal grey band is positioned in the middle, partially overlapping the green band. In the bottom-right corner, there is a dark green triangle pointing upwards and to the right, which overlaps the grey band and the light green band. The overall design is minimalist and modern.

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**  
**Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission**  
Five Middlesex Avenue, Suite 304 | Somerville, MA 02145  
Phone: 617-666-4446 | Fax: 617-628-4002  
TTY: 617-591-8917 | Web: [www.mass.gov/perac](http://www.mass.gov/perac)

# PERAC

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS | PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT ADMINISTRATION COMMISSION

PHILIP Y. BROWN, ESQ., *Chairman*

JOHN W. PARSONS, ESQ., *Executive Director*

Auditor SUZANNE M. BUMP | KATHLEEN M. FALLON | KATE FITZPATRICK | JAMES M. MACHADO | RICHARD MACKINNON, JR. | JENNIFER F. SULLIVAN

June 3, 2022

Arthur Viana, Chairperson  
Fall River Retirement Board  
21 Father Devalles Blvd.  
Suite Gr I, Box 14  
Fall River, MA 02723

**REFERENCE:** Report of the Examination of the Fall River Retirement Board for the four-year period from January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2017.

Dear Chairperson Viana:

The Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission has completed a follow-up review of the findings and recommendations contained in its audit report of the Fall River Retirement Board for the period referenced above. We conduct these visits as a regular part of the oversight process to ensure the timely implementation of the recommendations contained in that report. The examination also addressed the other matters discussed at the completion of the audit. The results are as follows:

***1. The Audit Report cited a finding that there is a lack of internal controls over cash.***

**Follow-up Result:** We reviewed the recent cash reconciliations and noted the Treasurer is still reviewing rather than preparing them. The Executive Director continues to prepare the reconciliations, control the inventory of the blank check stock, and is responsible for posting all the accounting entries. This issue is not resolved.

***2. The Audit Report cited a finding that there were no folders set up for some active members due to enrollment forms not being provided to the Board.***

**Follow-up Result:** Nine of the eighteen active members found without a folder during the audit still did not have folders set up at the time of the follow-up. Seven of the nine are no longer active members and two are active School employees that have not provided enrollment forms to the Retirement office. This issue is significantly resolved.



June 2, 2022  
Page Two

**3. The Audit Report cited a finding that the Board was using a credit card, without a supplemental regulation approved by PERAC, for non-travel related items.**

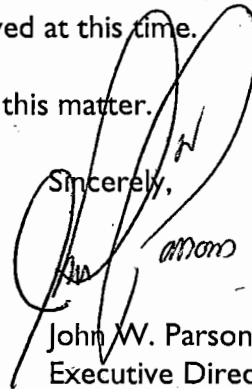
**Follow-up Result:** The Board has not submitted a credit card regulation to PERAC because the Board has decided to suspend the usage of the credit card. However, the Board used the credit card in March and April 2022 for the purchase of the prepaid postage stamped envelopes and priority mailings. This issue is not resolved.

The additional matters discussed have been reviewed and have been partially resolved.

PERAC auditors will conduct further follow-up as warranted to ensure corrections have been made in those areas that have not been resolved at this time.

Thank you for your continued cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John W. Parsons", is written over the word "Sincerely,". The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive.

John W. Parsons, Esq.  
Executive Director

JWP/tal

cc: Fall River Retirement Board Members