## REVERE

RETIREMENT SYSTEM

AUDIT REPORT

JANUARY 1, 2014 - DECEMBER 31, 2017



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### COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS | PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT ADMINISTRATION COMMISSION

PHILIP Y. BROWN, ESO., 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

September 30, 2022

The Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission has completed an examination of certain activities of the Revere 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: I) that the Board is exercising appropriate fiduciary oversight, 2) that cash balances are accurately stated, 3) that investment balances are accurately stated, 4) that travel expenses were properly documented and accounted for, 5) that retirement contributions are accurately deducted, 6) that retirement allowances were correctly calculated, and 7) that required member documentation is maintained.

To achieve these objectives, we inspected certain records of the Revere Retirement Board in the above areas. Specifically, we reviewed the minutes of the Board meetings for compliance with fiduciary oversight, verified cash and investment balances, and tested a sample of travel 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

## I. Regular Compensation:

There are two pay codes currently having retirement contributions withheld that do not qualify as regular compensation.

The first code is the police department's Hazardous Duty pay. Although the contract describes it as a differential "in the amount of three and three-fourths percent ( $3 \frac{3}{4} \frac{9}{8}$ ) of the base pay of a patrolman at the maximum step ... paid on a weekly basis", this is not regular compensation because there is no service associated with it.

The second code is the school department's Building Differential. This is pay for additional hours that are generally worked on an as-needed basis. Since these hours are not pre-determined or guaranteed as required by 840 CMR 15.03 (3)(b) they are not regular compensation.

Additionally, there is a school employee who receives a stipend for doing IT work for the City, and no retirement contributions are withheld. Since this pay does meet the requirements in 840 CMR 15.03 (3)(b) it should be considered regular compensation.

**Recommendation:** The payroll department should be instructed to stop withholding deductions from the first two codes mentioned above and begin withholding deductions from the third.

If the police department wants the hazardous duty pay to be considered regular compensation, it should be rolled into the base rather than paid separately.

## **Board Response:**

The Board disagrees with the finding that police hazardous duty differential pay is not regular compensation. As noted in PERAC Memo #33/201 I, hazardous duty pay that is regularly paid would be regular compensation even though it does not become part of base salary. Here, hazardous duty differential in the police payroll is a percentage of base pay of a patrolman at the maximum step and is paid weekly. This pay meets the definition of regular compensation.

The Board agrees that the school department building differential pay does not meet the definition of regular compensation and will direct the school department to stop retirement deductions. The Board agrees that the pay for a school employee doing additional IT work is regular compensation and will direct the school department to withhold retirement deductions.

## PERAC Response:

Though Memo 33 of 2011 references hazardous duty pay the memo clearly states that the pay must be for a service performed to the employer. Providing a stipend to an employee and labeling it hazardous duty pay does not negate the Boards responsibility to examine whether the pay meets the definition of regular compensation ("wages") pursuant to chapter 32. Memo 33 clearly lays out 6 questions that must be answered when analyzing whether a payment can be regular compensation. The second one is whether the payment is for a service provided to the employer by the employee. If a hazardous duty stipend is paid because an employee receives specialized hazmat

# EXPLANATION OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS (CONTINUED)

training then that would be a service to the employer and qualify the stipend as regular compensation. Simply labeling a stipend as hazardous duty does not make the payment regular compensation. In this instance there is no evidence that a service, outside of the employee's normal duties, is being performed in order to receive the stipend and thus it is not regular compensation and cannot be included in a retirement allowance.

### 2. Service Purchases:

Of the 22 service purchases that were included in our sample of active members, 11 had errors that were more significant than a one-month difference between the date of payment and the date interest was calculated through. The errors varied; the most common ones were four cases of using an incorrect rate of interest and three cases where a partial payment for non-member time was prorated based on the percentage paid rather than being credited with the most recent time first pursuant to 840 CMR 15.02 (2).

**Recommendation:** The errors identified during the audit should be corrected by collecting underpayments, refunding overpayments, or adjusting the creditable service that was granted. Service purchases for other members should be reviewed for similar issues and also be corrected.

### **Board Response:**

The Board will review the service purchases and correct as needed. The Administrator uses PTG software together with PERAC Memos to provide a consistent manner of selecting rate of interest based on the relevant factors and credits the most recent time first when there is a partial purchase. As this seems to be a common finding in audits, the Board requests that PERAC provide training to Boards on this topic along with written guidance/best practices.

## **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	
Net Assets Available For Benefits:					
Cash	\$2,899,044	\$3,417,315	\$2,731,827	\$3,383,537	
Short Term Investments	0	0	0	202,038	
PRIT Core Fund	154,487,555	132,190,658	124,027,952	123,023,366	
Accounts Receivable	<u>0</u>	<u>20,482</u>	<u>174,073</u>	<u> 171,331</u>	
Total	\$ <u>157,386,598</u>	\$ <u>135,628,456</u>	\$126,933,852	\$126,780,272	
Fund Balances:					
Annuity Savings Fund	\$35,136,088	\$34,639,708	\$33,087,232	\$31,618,427	
Annuity Reserve Fund	8,472,659	7,785,801	7,799,604	7,660,364	
Pension Fund	1,303,806	713,382	345,733	49,509	
Military Service Fund	2,244	0	0	0	
Expense Fund	0	0	0	0	
Pension Reserve Fund	112,471,802	92,489,565	85,701,283	87,451,972	
Total	\$ <u>157,386,598</u>	\$ <u>135,628,456</u>	\$ <u>126,933,852</u>	\$ <u>126,780,272</u>	

## 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	\$29,584,709	\$7,807,718	\$1,227,395	\$0	\$0	\$80,563,094	\$119,182,916
Receipts	3,508,812	238,118	10,403,479	0	907,435	8,372,424	23,430,267
Interfund Transfers	(1,386,293)	1,381,386	1,488,453	0	0	(1,483,545)	0
Disbursements	( <u>88,800</u> )	( <u>1,766,858</u> )	(13,069,818)	<u>0</u>	( <u>907,435</u> )	<u>0</u>	( <u>15,832,911</u> )
Ending Balance 2014	31,618,427	7,660,364	49,509	0	0	87,451,972	126,780,272
Adjustment*	202	0	0	0	0	(202)	0
Receipts	3,532,441	228,659	11,263,994	0	879,336	312,074	16,216,504
Interfund Transfers	(1,766,771)	1,705,345	2,123,987	0	0	(2,062,561)	0
Disbursements	(297,068)	( <u>1,794,764</u> )	( <u>13,091,756</u> )	<u>0</u>	( <u>879,336</u> )	<u>0</u>	( <u>16,062,924</u> )
Ending Balance 2015	33,087,232	7,799,604	345,733	0	0	85,701,283	126,933,852
Receipts	3,652,143	224,357	11,854,592	0	925,843	8,906,213	25,563,148
Interfund Transfers	(1,702,644)	1,696,795	2,123,781	0		(2,117,932)	0
Disbursements	(397,022)	( <u>1,934,955</u> )	(13,610,724)	<u>0</u>	( <u>925,843</u> )	<u>0</u>	(16,868,544)
Ending Balance 2016	34,639,708	7,785,801	713,382	0	0	92,489,565	135,628,456
Adjustment*	0	(1,672)	0	0	0	(14,223)	(15,895)
Receipts	3,598,926	234,776	12,157,558	2,244	1,078,543	22,213,429	39,285,476
Interfund Transfers	(2,528,082)	2,527,085	2,217,967	0	0	(2,216,970)	0
Disbursements	<u>(574,464)</u>	(2,073,331)	(13,785,100)	<u>0</u>	<u>(1,078,543)</u>	<u>0</u>	(17,511,439)
Ending Balance 2017	\$ <u>35,136,088</u>	\$8,472,659	\$ <u>1,303,806</u>	\$ <u>2,244</u>	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>112,471,802</u>	\$ <u>157,386,598</u>

<sup>\*</sup> In two of the four years the beginning fund balances were not equal to the prior year's ending fund balances.

## **STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS**

	FOR THE PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31.				
	2017	2016	2015	201 <del>4</del>	
Annuity Savings Fund:	24	20.0	20.0		
Members Deductions	\$3,383,107	\$3,198,178	\$3,180,352	\$3,188,288	
Transfers from Other Systems	103,863	374,987	82,033	214,495	
Member Make Up Payments and Re-deposits	73,601	46,953	36,266	315	
Member Payments from Rollovers	0	0	203,218	77,378	
Investment Income Credited to Member Accounts	<u>38,355</u>	32,026	<u>30,571</u>	28,337	
Sub Total	3,598,926	3,652,143	3,532,441	3,508,812	
Annuity Reserve Fund: Investment Income Credited to the Annuity Reserve					
Fund	234,776	224,357	228,659	238,118	
Pension Fund:					
3 (8) (c) Reimbursements from Other Systems	107,748	80,117	79,761	81,693	
Received from Commonwealth for COLA and Survivor					
Benefits	120,941	271,615	316,798	341,688	
Pension Fund Appropriation	11,928,869	11,502,860	10,867,435	9,980,097	
Recovery of 91A Overearnings	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	
Sub Total	12,157,558	11,854,592	11,263,994	10,403,479	
Military Service Fund:					
Contribution Received from Municipality on Account of					
Military Service	2,244	0	0	0	
Investment Income Credited to the Military Service					
Fund	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	
Sub Total	2,244	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	
Expense Fund:					
Investment Income Credited to the Expense Fund	1,078,543	925,843	<u>879,336</u>	907,435	
Pension Reserve Fund:					
Interest Not Refunded	0	0	0	8	
Miscellaneous Income	5,000	34,496	0	23,000	
Excess Investment Income	22,208,429	8,871,717	312,074	8,349,416	
Sub Total	22,213,429	8,906,213	312,074	8,372,424	
Total Receipts, Net	\$ <u>39,285,476</u>	\$25,563,148	\$ <u>16,216,504</u>	\$ <u>23,430,267</u>	

## STATEMENT OF DISBURSEMENTS

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				NDING DECEMBER	•
		2017	2016	2015	2014
Annuity Savings Fund:					
Refunds to Members		\$131,111	\$107,538	\$43,744	\$55,877
Transfers to Other Systems		443,353	<u>289,484</u>	<u>253,324</u>	32,923
Su	b Total	<u>574,464</u>	397,022	297,068	88,800
Annuity Reserve Fund:	j				
Annuities Paid		2,072,322	1,934,955	1,794,764	1,731,227
Option B Refunds		1,009	0	0	35,630
Su	b Total	2,073,331	1,934,955	I,794,764	1,766,858
Pension Fund:	İ		<u> </u>		
Pensions Paid:					
Regular Pension Payments		7,542,963	7,264,070	7,158,630	7,112,901
Survivorship Payments		686,195	1,104,932	605,813	589,415
Ordinary Disability Payments		96,883	116,602	114,811	112,441
Accidental Disability Payments		3,542,283	3,668,833	3,384,398	3,360,761
Accidental Death Payments		1,403,102	948,823	1,458,899	1,525,274
Section 101 Benefits		132,166	144,280	169,691	178,433
3 (8) (c) Reimbursements to Other Systems		<u>381,509</u>	<u>363,184</u>	<u> 199,514</u>	<u>190,593</u>
Su	b Total	13,785,100	13,610,724	13,091,756	13,069,818
Expense Fund:					
Board Member Stipend		18.000	18,000	18,000	18,000
Salaries		179,524	117.896	122,560	146,195
Legal Expenses		42,473	42,479	42,438	42,091
Medical Expenses		164	249	0	0
Travel Expenses		0	0	186	223
Administrative Expenses		7,172	20,236	5,439	15,568
Furniture and Equipment		7,797	2,777	1,424	1,319
Management Fees		759,285	688,452	645,431	642,515
Service Contracts		54,827	26,580	34,955	32,861
Fiduciary Insurance		<u>9,302</u>	<u>9,173</u>	<u>8,903</u>	<u>8,664</u>
Su	b Total	<u>1,078,543</u>	925,843	<u>879,336</u>	907,435
Total Disburse	ements	\$ <u>17,511,439</u>	\$ <u>16,868,544</u>	\$ <u>16,062,924</u>	\$ <u>15,832,911</u>

## **INVESTMENT INCOME**

			ENDING DECEMBER	,
	2017	2016	2015	2014
Investment Income Received From:				
Cash	\$3,923	\$2,784	\$2,660	\$2,205
Short Term Investments	0	0	165	1,304
Pooled or Mutual Funds	<u>4,002,041</u>	<u>3,691,718</u>	<u>3,278,503</u>	<u>3,430,963</u>
Total Investment Income	4,005,964	3,694,502	<u>3,281,327</u>	3,434,473
Plus:				
Realized Gains	6,582,568	3,642,985	4,489,024	5,438,821
Unrealized Gains	<u>12,971,572</u>	<u>11,133,185</u>	<u>6,564,863</u>	<u>7,838,192</u>
Sub Total	19,554,140	14,776,170	11,053,887	13,277,013
Less:				
Realized Loss	0	(71,011)	(59,044)	0
Unrealized Loss	<u>0</u>	(8,345,719)	(12,825,531)	(7,188,179)
Sub Total	<u>0</u>	(8,416,730)	(12,884,575)	(7,188,179)
Net Investment Income	23,560,104	10,053,942	1,450,640	9,523,306
Income Required:				
Annuity Savings Fund	38,355	32,026	30,571	28,337
Annuity Reserve Fund	234,776	224,357	228,659	238,118
Expense Fund	1,078,543	925,843	879,336	907,435
Total Income Required	1,351,675	1,182,225	<u>1,138,566</u>	<u>1,173,890</u>
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Net Investment Income	23,560,104	10,053,942	1,450,640	9,523,306
Less: Total Income Required	<u>1,351,675</u>	1,182,225	<u>1,138,566</u>	1,173,890
Excess Income (Loss) To The Pension Reserve				
Fund	\$22,208,429	\$8,871,717	\$312,074	\$8,349,416

## SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

## SCHEDULE OF ALLOCATION OF INVESTMENTS OWNED

(percentages by category)

		AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2017			
		PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL			
		MARKET VALUE	ASSETS		
Cash		\$2,899,044	1.8%		
PRIT Core Fund		<u>154,487,555</u>	<u>98.2</u> %		
	Grand Total	<u>\$157,386,598</u>	100.0%		

For the year ending December 31, 2017, the rate of return for the investments of the Revere Retirement System was 17.54%. For the five-year period ending December 31, 2017, the rate of return for the investments of the Revere Retirement System averaged 9.81%. 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 Revere Retirement System was 8.56%.

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%.

### SUMMARY OF PLAN PROVISIONS

The plan is a contributory defined benefit plan covering all Revere 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 I:

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.

### 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 I 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 I, 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.

### 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. I, 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 I, 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 I 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 I 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 I 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 I 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.

### 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 I, 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 I 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 I2 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.

### **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 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. I 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 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 from the State Retirement Board. This lump sum payment is also available to the family of a public prosecutor in certain, limited circumstances.

### 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 I 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.

#### 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.

## 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.

<u>Cash</u> 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 <u>administrative expenses</u> of the system.

The <u>Annuity Savings Fund</u> 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 <u>Annuity Reserve Fund</u> 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 <u>Special Military Service Credit Fund</u> 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 <u>Expense Fund</u> contains amounts transferred from investment income for the purposes of administering the retirement system.

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

The <u>Pension Reserve Fund</u> 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 <u>Investment Income Account</u> 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.

## 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: Richard Viscay, Chair

Appointed Member: Ida Cody Serves until a successor is appointed

Elected Member: James Cullen Term Expires: 04/06/2024

Elected Member: Sean Manion Term Expires: 04/06/2024

Appointed Member: Gennaro Cataldo Term Expires: 12/17/2023

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 Revere Retirement Board has adopted Supplemental Regulations which are available on the PERAC website at <a href="https://www.mass.gov/revere-retirement-board-regulations">https://www.mass.gov/revere-retirement-board-regulations</a>.

## **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, 2021.

The actuarial liability for active members was	\$132,247,882
The actuarial liability for vested terminated members was	3,324,917
The actuarial liability for non-vested terminated members was	816,825
The actuarial liability for retired members was	168,154,751
The total actuarial liability was	\$304,544,375
System assets as of that date were (actuarial value)	193,312,523
The unfunded actuarial liability was	\$ <u>111,231,852</u>
The ratio of system's assets to total actuarial liability was	63.5%
As of that date the total covered employee payroll was	\$43,317,547

The normal cost for employees on that date was 9.3% of payroll

The normal cost for the employer including expenses was 11.2% of payroll

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

Investment Return: 7.00% per annum

Rate of Salary Increase: Varies by group and service

## SCHEDULE OF FUNDING PROGRESS AS OF JANUARY 1, 2021

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 )
1/1/2021	\$193,312,523	\$304,544,375	\$111,231,852	63.5%	\$43,317,547	256.8%
1/1/2019	\$162,855,208	\$271,467,508	\$108,612,300	60.0%	\$36,788,109	295.2%
1/1/2017	\$138,503,410	\$246,847,036	\$108,343,626	56.1%	\$33,295,921	325. <del>4</del> %
1/1/2015	\$121,500,787	\$228,227,236	\$106,726,449	53.2%	\$32,748,245	325.9%
1/1/2013	\$102,117,885	\$197,099,847	\$94,981,962	51.8%	\$27,430,526	346.3%

## MEMBERSHIP EXHIBIT

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Retirement in Past Years										
Superannuation	6	8	12	15	12	18	15	13	19	19
Ordinary Disability	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Accidental Disability	4	4	3	I	0	4	3	4	1	5
Total Retirements	10	12	15	16	12	22	18	17	20	24
Total Retirees, Beneficiaries and										
Survivors	550	548	546	542	530	524	521	507	506	574
Total Active Members	517	510	548	561	632	658	575	574	562	587
Pension Payments										
Superannuation	\$5,731,445	\$5,870,934	\$6,112,323	\$6,345,183	\$6,519,009	\$6,793,380	\$7,112,901	\$7,158,630	\$7,264,070	\$7,542,963
Survivor/Beneficiary Payments	560,920	571,519	616,037	634,973	580,852	589,653	589,415	605,813	1,104,932	686,195
Ordinary Disability	122,761	107,498	109,758	112,043	114,353	116,687	112,441	114,811	116,602	96,883
Accidental Disability	2,997,316	3,086,316	3,182,134	3,261,542	3,263,228	4,013,979	3,360,761	3,384,398	3,668,833	3,542,283
Other	1,499,714	1,580,080	<u>1,657,950</u>	1,699,908	1,680,863	1,776,129	1,894,300	1,828,104	1,456,287	1,916,776
Total Payments for Year	\$ <u>10,912,156</u>	\$ <u>11,216,347</u>	\$ <u>11,678,202</u>	\$ <u>12,053,649</u>	\$ <u>12,158,305</u>	\$ <u>13,289,828</u>	\$ <u>13,069,818</u>	\$ <u>13,091,756</u>	\$ <u>13,610,724</u>	\$ <u>13,785,100</u>





### COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS | PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT ADMINISTRATION COMMISSION

PHILIP Y. BROWN, ESQ., Chair

JOHN W. PARSONS, ESQ., Executive Director

Auditor DIANA DIZOGLIO | KATHLEEN M. FALLON | KATE FITZPATRICK | JAMES J. GUIDO | RICHARD MACKINNON, JR. | JENNIFER F. SULLIVAN, ESQ.

October 5, 2023

Richard Viscay, Chairperson Revere Retirement Board 14 Yeamans Street Unit C2 Revere, MA 02151

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

Dear Chairperson Viscay:

The Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission has completed a follow-up review of the findings and recommendations contained in its audit report of the Revere 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 retirement deductions were erroneously taken from two pay codes: police Hazard Duty pay and the school's Building Differential pay. Additionally, there is a school employee who receives a stipend for doing IT work for the City, and no retirement contributions are withheld.

**Follow-up Result**: Recent payroll registers were reviewed and it was determined that the IT stipend for the school employee now correctly has deductions withheld, while the Building Differential still has deductions incorrectly withheld. We also reviewed an extract of the union contract signed on February 23, 2023, between the City of Revere and Revere Police Patrol Officer Association; this contract rolls the Hazardous Duty pay into the base salary so there is no longer a separate payment. This issue is partially resolved.

2. The Audit Report cited a finding that 11 out of 22 (50%) service purchases had significant errors in interest payment calculations, creditable service, and incorrect use of interest rates for service purchases.

**Follow-up Result**: A review of the Board's recalculations of service purchases confirms that actions have been taken to correct the identified audit errors. This issue is resolved.





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

The Commission wishes to acknowledge the effort demonstrated by the staff of the Revere Retirement Board to correct many of the issues from the most recent examination of the system. 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

John W. Parsons, Esq.

Executive Director

JWP/cms

cc: Revere Retirement Board Members