

PERAC PENSION NEWSFLASH

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PERAC

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Richard D. MacKinnon, Jr. Appointed to Commission



PERAC Commissioner Richard D. MacKinnon, Jr.

Richard D. MacKinnon, Jr., President of the Professional Firefighters of Massachusetts (PFFM), was appointed in January to a five-year term on the Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission by State Auditor Suzanne Bump, filling the statutory commission seat as the designee of the President of the Massachusetts AFL-CIO.

MacKinnon is a third-generation firefighter, who has served for 20 years as a

firefighter/paramedic in the Town of Whitman. After serving in a number of elected roles in Whitman Firefighters Local 1769, MacKinnon was elected the local's president in 2010. He then served on the PFFM Executive Board and as chair or co-chair of a number of PFFM committees. MacKinnon was appointed by Governor Patrick to serve on the state's Joint Labor Management Committee. Additionally, he served on national committees with the International Association of Firefighters and the National Fire Protection Association. MacKinnon was elected President of the PFFM on October 22, 2016.

One of seven PERAC Commissioners, MacKinnon fills the seat vacated by the retirement of former PFFM president and long-time PERAC Commissioner, Robert McCarthy. MacKinnon participated in his first meeting as a Commissioner on January 13, 2021.

“On behalf of my fellow Commissioners, I welcome Commissioner MacKinnon to PERAC,” said Chairman Phillip Y. Brown. “Rich MacKinnon will bring distinct perspective and a wealth of knowledge to PERAC with his experience as a leader, as a collaborator and as a longtime firefighter and EMT. Commissioner MacKinnon will add a valued and needed dimension to PERAC’s work of protecting and regulating the Massachusetts public pension system. As a board, we all look forward to working with Commissioner MacKinnon.”

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“Filling the shoes of Bob McCarthy is no easy task, but from my past experiences working with Commissioner MacKinnon, I know he will be a worthy successor,” said PERAC Executive Director John Parsons. “I have been impressed by Commissioner MacKinnon’s dedication, fairness, decency and knowledge of the issues. It will be a pleasure to now work with Commissioner MacKinnon in his new role.”

Commissioner MacKinnon lives in Whitman with his wife and their two daughters.

PERAC’s mission is to provide regulatory oversight and guidance for the effective, equitable, and ethical operation of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts’ 104 public pension systems. PERAC has a staff of 51 and is based in Somerville. The Commission meets monthly, on the second Wednesday of the month.

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