

APPROVED

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF RETIREMENT LOS ANGELES COUNTY EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION

300 N. LAKE AVENUE, SUITE 810, PASADENA, CA 91101

9:00 A.M., WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4, 2025

This meeting was conducted by the Board of Retirement both in person and by teleconference under California Government Code Section 54953(f).

TRUSTEES PRESENT:

Les Robbins, Chair

Ronald Okum, Vice Chair

Shawn R. Kehoe, Secretary (Alternate Seventh Member)

Nancy Durazo

Bobbie Fesler

JP Harris (Alternate Retired)

Elizabeth Ginsberg

Aleen Langton

David Ryu

TRUSTEES ABSENT:

Jason E. Green

Wayne Moore

STAFF ADVISORS AND PARTICIPANTS

Luis A. Lugo, Deputy Chief Executive Officer

JJ Popowich, Assistant Executive Officer

STAFF ADVISORS AND PARTICIPANTS (Continued)

Laura Guglielmo, Assistant Executive Officer

Jonathan Grabel, Chief Investment Officer

Jude Perez, Deputy Chief Investment Officer

Steven P. Rice, Chief Counsel

Dr. Glenn Ehresmann, Medical Advisor

Francis J. Boyd, Senior Staff Counsel

Allison Barrett, Senior Staff Counsel

Tamara Caldwell, Disability Retirement Manager

Carly Ntoya, Human Resources Director

Louis Gittens, Benefits Division Manager

Joe Rice, Managing Director, CBIZ Talent and Compensation

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Robbins at 9:02 a.m. in the Board Room of Gateway Plaza.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

III. PROCEDURE FOR TELECONFERENCE MEETING ATTENDANCE UNDER AB 2449, California Government Code Section 54953(f)

A. Just Cause

B. Action on Emergency Circumstance Requests

C. Statement of Persons Present at AB 2449 Teleconference Locations

There was nothing to report. No trustees participated under Section 54953(f).

IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 7, 2025

Trustee Langton made a motion, Trustee Kehoe seconded, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 7, 2025. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

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

Absent: Moore

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

Member Robert Renko addressed the Board regarding his disability retirement application. Member Gustavo Mojarro addressed the Board regarding errors in his benefits and salary adjustments.

VI. EXECUTIVE UPDATE

A. Awards

Mr. Popowich recognized the graduates who have successfully completed the Specialist Basic Training Class.

B. LACERA All Stars

Mr. Popowich announced the winners for the month: Rachel Figueroa, Dana Jones, Amanda Aguayo, and Artur Asatryan. The Web Watcher winner was Wenona Myers and the Rideshare winner was Judy Tran.

C. Member Spotlight

Mr. Popowich recognized LACERA member, Michael Hedgecock.

D. Chief Executive Officer's Report

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

VII. DISABILITY RETIREMENT APPLICATIONS ON CONSENT CALENDAR

Safety Law Enforcement

Service-Connected Disability Applications

On a motion by Trustee Kehoe, seconded by Trustee Okum, the Board of Retirement approved a service-connected disability retirement for the following named employees who met the burden of establishing permanent incapacity from the performance of their usual duties and a real and measurable connection between their incapacity and employment.

<u>APPLICATION NO.</u>	<u>NAME</u>
652E	GALVEZ, GONZALO (DEC'D)
653E*	SCROGGIN, SANDI
654E	MORROW, TRAVIS
655E	ROW, MICHAEL S.
656E	TWEEDY, RANDY L.
657E*	CAMARILLO, DEAN A.
658E	AIMAQ, SALIM S.
659E	GREENE, BENJAMIN I.
660E	BENITEZ, PATRICIA
661E**	ROYAL, JAMES P.
662E	GARCIA, JESUS T.
663E	HANSON, BRETT A.
664E	THOMPSON, MICHAEL A.
665E	BARNES, JOSHUA M.
666E	CANFIELD, RICHARD R.
667E	ORTEGA, JAIME
668E	LOPEZ, JORGE L.
669E	ESQUIVEL, SALVADOR, JR.
670E	LASCANO, BETTY B.
671E	SUTTON, ELIZABETH
672E	KOTSIS, GEORGE
673E	CARUSO, ANGELA M.
674E	BRUNER, LAURA C.
675E	FERRONE, TIMOTHY M.
676E	KEHOE, BRIAN A.
677E*	FORNESS, MATTHEW S.
678E***	TORRES, JONATHAN R. (DEC'D)

*Granted SCD – Retroactive

**Granted SCD – Employer Cannot Accommodate

***Granted SCD – Survivor Benefit

VII. DISABILITY RETIREMENT APPLICATIONS ON CONSENT CALENDAR

Safety Law Enforcement (Continued)

Service-Connected Disability Applications

APPLICATION NO.

679E

680E

NAME

MORENO, STEPHEN G.

STAMBOOK, JONATHAN E.

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

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

Absent: Moore

Safety Fire, Lifeguards

Service-Connected Disability Applications

On a motion by Trustee Okum, seconded by Trustee Langton, the Board of Retirement approved a service-connected disability retirement for the following named employees who met the burden of establishing permanent incapacity from the performance of their usual duties and a real and measurable connection between their incapacity and employment.

APPLICATION NO.

1956B

1957B

1958B

1959B

1960B

1961B

1962B

1963B*

1964B

1965B*

NAME

FENNER, CHRISTOPHER W.

WORKING, PHILLIP V.

MENDOZA, ROBERT R.

SMITSON, LANCE E.

OHARA, KEVIN

WATSON, PATRICK B.

SHEPPARD, DANIEL W.

MACKEY, ANDERSON D., JR.

RASH, CHRISTOPHER S.

GRIGSBY, SCOTT

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

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

Absent: Moore

*Granted SCD – Retroactive

VII. DISABILITY RETIREMENT APPLICATIONS ON CONSENT CALENDAR

General Members

Service-Connected Disability Applications

On a motion by Trustee Okum, seconded by Trustee Langton, the Board of Retirement made a motion to approve a service-connected disability retirement for the following named employees who met the burden of establishing permanent incapacity from the performance of their usual duties and a real and measurable connection between their incapacity and employment.

<u>APPLICATION NO.</u>	<u>NAME</u>
2934C*	POTECHIN, MICHAEL A. (DEC'D)
2935C**	BRAY, JAMES D.
2936C**	MAC PHERSON, MICHAEL L.
2937C	ROBERTS, GARY T.
2938C***	THOMAS, DEAUNDRE T.
2939C	APPLEWHITE, DEMETRA R.
2940C****	RIVAS, JOSE S.
2941C	HERRERA, LEDVIA C.
2942C***	PEREZ, SONIA E.
2943C****	BROWN-WILLIAMS, SHERI L.
2944C	MORLEY, CHARLENE L.
2945C	SKAHILL, SEAN M.
2946C**	MOORE, RUSSELL
2947C***	STEWART-NORTH, SHIRLENE
2948C****	BARNES, GEORGIA L.
2949C	LE, IRENE T.

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

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

Absent: Moore

*Granted SCD – Survivor Benefit

**Granted SCD – Employer Cannot Accommodate

***Granted SCD – Salary Supplement

****Granted SCD – Retroactive Employer Cannot Accommodate

VII. DISABILITY RETIREMENT APPLICATIONS ON CONSENT CALENDAR

General Members

Nonservice-Connected Disability Applications

On a motion by Trustee Okum, seconded by Trustee Langton, the Board of Retirement made a motion to approve a nonservice-connected disability retirement for the following named employee who met the burden of establishing permanent incapacity from the performance of her usual duties.

APPLICATION NO.

4512

4513*

NAME

DEDIOS, GLENN ALDRIN

REEFER, LIDIA E.

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

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

Absent: Moore

VIII. CONSENT ITEMS

Trustee Kehoe made a motion, Trustee Okum seconded, to approve consent items A-C. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

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

Absent: Moore

A. Ratification of Service Retirement and Survivor Benefit Application Approvals

Recommendation that the Board approve the service retirements and survivor benefit applications received as of May 27, 2025, along with any retirement rescissions and/or changes approved at last month's Board meeting. (Memo dated May 27, 2025)

*Granted NSCD – Retroactive

VIII. CONSENT ITEMS (Continued)

B. **Appeals for the Board of Retirement Meeting of June 4, 2025**

Recommendation as submitted by Tamara Caldwell, Division Manager, Disability Retirement Services: That the Board grant the appeals and requests for administrative hearing received from Rhonda Garnett and Theresa A. Schell, and direct the Disability Retirement Services Manager to refer each case to a referee.

(Memo dated May 22, 2025)

C. **Service Provider Invoice Approval Request – Jesse Carr, M.D.**

Recommendation as submitted by Tamara Caldwell, Division Manager, Disability Retirement Services: That the Board approve the service provider invoice for Jesse Carr, M.D. (Memo dated May 8, 2025 – Attachment is Non-Public and Exempt from Disclosure as Private Information and Exempt from Disclosure under California Government Code Sections 7927.700, 54957.56(a))

IX. EXCLUDED FROM CONSENT ITEMS

There were no items pulled for discussion.

X. NON-CONSENT ITEMS

A. **Request to Ratify Labor Negotiator – Irma Rodriguez Moisa**

Recommendation as submitted by Carly Ntoya, Ph.D., Human Resources Director: That the Board ratify Irma Rodriguez Moisa to serve as LACERA's Chief Negotiator for upcoming negotiations with Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 721 for two Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) LACERA Administrative, Technical, Clerical, and Blue Collar Unit 850 and LACERA Supervisory Unit 851, starting in July 2025. (Memo dated May 21, 2025)

Ms. Ntoya was present and answered questions from the Board.

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

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

Absent: Moore

X. NON-CONSENT ITEMS (Continued)

B. **Ratification of Reciprocal Disability Retirement**

Recommendation as submitted by Louis Gittens, Benefits Manager: That the Board approve the reciprocal disability retirement for deferred members, Fel M. Sarno and Tracee E. Walker, who were found to be disabled by the current reciprocal agency for the performance of their duties and have met the burden of proof.

(Memo dated May 23, 2025)

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

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

Absent: Moore

C. **MOVED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

This item was held in Executive Session.

D. **Application of Joel Koury for Reinstatement to Active Membership Pursuant to Government Code Section 31680.4 and 31680.5**

Recommendation as submitted by Louis Gittens, Benefits Manager: That the Board 1) Determine, based upon medical evaluation conducted April 9, 2025, that Joel Koury is not incapacitated for the duties assigned to him in the position of Court Commissioner; and 2) Grant the application of Joel Koury for reinstatement to active membership. (Memo dated May 8, 2025)

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

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

Absent: Moore

XI. REPORTS

A. **Salary Adjustments for Investment Office Staff Members**

Luis Lugo, Deputy Chief Executive Officer

Joe Rice, Managing Director, CBIZ Talent and Compensation Solutions. (Presentation) (Memo dated May 28, 2025)

Mr. Lugo and Mr. Rice of CBIZ Talent and Compensation Solutions provided a presentation and answered questions from the Board.

This item was received and filed.

B. **Los Angeles County's Compliance with Requirements for Rehired Retirees – Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024**

Debbie Martin, 2024 Audit, Compliance, Risk and Ethics Committee Chair

Richard P. Bendall, Chief Audit Executive

Steven P. Rice, Chief Counsel

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

This item was received and filed.

C. **Assembly Bill 1383 – Public Employees' Retirement Benefits**

Barry W. Lew, Legislative Affairs Officer

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

This item was received and filed.

D. **Report of Revised Pay Item**

Jean J. Kim, Senior Staff Counsel

Zack Meth, Staff Counsel

(For Information Only) (Memo dated May 9, 2025)

This item was received and filed.

E. **Contract Activity Report – March 2025**

Ricki Contreras, Administrative Services Division Manager

Elsy Gutierrez, Supervising Administrative Assistant II

(For Information Only) (Memo dated May 19, 2025)

This item was received and filed.

XI. REPORTS (Continued)

F. **Monthly Status Report on Legislation**

Barry W. Lew, Legislative Affairs Officer

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

This item was received and filed.

G. **Monthly Trustee Travel & Education Report – April 2025**

Fiscal Year 2024-2025 3rd Quarter Trustee Travel & Education Expenditure Report

Fiscal Year 2024-2025 3rd Quarter Staff Travel Expenditure Report

Ted Granger, Chief Financial Officer

(For Information Only) (Memo dated May 22, 2025)

This item was received and filed.

H. **May 2025 Fiduciary Counsel Contact and Billing Report**

Steven P. Rice, Chief Counsel

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

(Privileged and Confidential/Attorney-Client Communication/Attorney Work Product and Exempt from Disclosure under California Government Code Sections 7927.705, 54957.5(a))

This item was received and filed.

XII. ITEMS FOR STAFF REVIEW

Trustee Kehoe requested that staff provide an update regarding Robert Renko and Gustavo Mojarro's public comments.

XIII. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

There was nothing to report.

XIV. GOOD OF THE ORDER

(For Information Purposes Only)

Mr. Rice introduced new legal interns, Jasmine Feng and Aparajita Pathak. Lastly, Mr. Lugo announced that Bonnie Nolley was promoted to the Special Assistant Position in the Executive Office.

XV. DISABILITY RETIREMENT CASES TO BE HELD IN CLOSED SESSION

A. Applications for Disability

APPLICATION NO. & NAME AND BOARD ACTION

5458B – WILLIAMS, ANTHONY*

Trustee Kehoe made a motion, Trustee Okum seconded, to deny a service-connected disability retirement since the employer can accommodate.

Trustee Langton made a substitute motion, to grant a service-connected disability retirement. The motion failed due to a lack of a second on the motion.

Trustee Kehoe made a substitute motion, Trustee Robbins seconded, to return to staff for further development.

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

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

Absent: Moore

5459B – BEASLEY, TERRY, II*

Trustee Kehoe made a motion, Trustee Langton seconded, to grant a nonservice-connected supplemental disability allowance pursuant to Government Code Sections 31720 and 31725.5.

Trustee Kehoe made a substitute motion, Trustee Okum seconded to return to staff for further development.

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

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

Absent: Moore

XV. DISABILITY RETIREMENT CASES TO BE HELD IN CLOSED SESSION

APPLICATION NO. & NAME AND BOARD ACTION

5460B – MOORE, MICHAEL L.

This item was pulled by staff for further development.

5285B – ATKINSON, GENIEVE R.

Trustee Kehoe made a motion, Trustee Robbins seconded, to deny a service-connected disability retirement since the employer can accommodate.

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

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

Absent: Moore

5443B – SANTIAGO, MELVIN M.*

Trustee Kehoe made a motion, Trustee Robbins seconded, to grant a service-connected disability retirement pursuant to Government Code Section 31720.

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

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

Absent: Moore

XV. DISABILITY RETIREMENT CASES TO BE HELD IN CLOSED SESSION

APPLICATION NO. & NAME AND BOARD ACTION

5449B – HARRIS, PEGGY D.*

Trustee Okum made a motion, Trustee Langton seconded, to deny a service-connected disability retirement and find the applicant ineligible for a nonservice-connected disability retirement.

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

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

Absent: Moore

5451B – MARAVEL, ANDREW, L.*

Trustee Kehoe made a motion, Trustee Robbins seconded, to grant a service-connected disability retirement pursuant to Government Code Sections 31720 and 31720.5.

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

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

Absent: Moore

B. Disability Retirement Appeals

APPLICATION NO. & NAME AND BOARD ACTION

ZENDEL, ARLENE S. – Thomas Wicke for the Applicant
Eugenia W. Der for the Respondent

Trustee Kehoe made a motion, Trustee Robbins seconded, to grant a service-connected disability retirement.

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

*Applicant and/or Applicant's Attorney Present

XV. DISABILITY RETIREMENT CASES TO BE HELD IN CLOSED SESSION

B. Disability Retirement Appeals

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

Absent: Moore

APPLICATION NO. & NAME AND BOARD ACTION

WILKES, PHILIP, D.* – In Pro Per
Jason Waller for the Respondent

Trustee Kehoe made a motion, Trustee Okum seconded, to deny a service-connected disability retirement and to grant a nonservice-connected disability retirement.

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

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

Absent: Moore

XVI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. **Conference Legal Counsel - Existing Litigation**
(Pursuant to Paragraph (1) of Subdivision (d) of California Government Code Section 54956.9)

1. *LACERA v. Marquez*
Los Angeles Superior Court, Case No. 25NNCV03240

There was nothing to report.

B. **Conference with Labor Negotiators**
(Pursuant to California Government Code Section 54957.6)

Agency Designated Representatives:

XVI. EXECUTIVE SESSION (Continued)

Chief Negotiator Irma Rodriguez Moisa, Carly Ntoya, Luis Lugo, Laura Guglielmo, JJ Popowich, Annette Cleary, and Jasmine Bath

Employee Organization: SEIU Local 721

There was nothing to report.

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

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

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

There was nothing to report.

D. **Conference with Legal Counsel - Anticipated Litigation**

(Significant Exposure to Litigation Pursuant to Paragraph (2) of Subdivision (d) of California Government Code Section 54956.9)

One Item: Louis Rotar, Jr.

On a motion by Trustee Kehoe, seconded by Trustee Robbins the Board voted to change the member's retirement date to May 22, 1985 and waive the overpayment that would otherwise have been due. Trustees Durazo, Fesler, Kehoe, Langton, Okum, Robbins, and Ryu voted yes. Trustee Ginsberg and Moore were absent for the vote.

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 12:52 p.m.

Signature on File

SHAWN R. KEHOE, SECRETARY

Signature on File

LES ROBBINS, CHAIR

