



CITY OF ATLANTA
DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION INVESTMENT BOARD

**DEFINED BENEFIT PLAN INVESTMENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE FOR
GENERAL EMPLOYEES' PENSION FUND**

TO: CITY OF ATLANTA RETIREES AND ACTIVE EMPLOYEES
General Employees' Pension Fund

FROM: Jeffrey B. Norman, Commissioner, Human Resources

DATE: September 30, 2021

RE: Election of one (1) City of Atlanta Representative to the
Defined Benefit Plan Investment Board, General Pension Fund

An election will be held for one (1) representative of the Defined Benefits Plan Investment Board General Pension Fund. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes will serve a three (3) year period which is to end December 31, 2024.

Please accept this letter as notice of the candidates running for this position. Biographies have been attached for each candidate. The voting period for this election will be November 15, 2021 through November 19, 2021. The election ballots will be mailed November 8, 2021. The election ballots will be counted on November 29, 2021.

City of Atlanta General Employees' Pension Fund Candidates

1. Alfred Berry, Jr.
2. Napoleon Black
3. Tracie Chambers
4. John Culbreth
5. Sherri Thompson Dickerson
6. Gerard Jackson
7. Benjamin Kuku
8. Fred Martin
9. Dutch Robinson
10. Marquee Scale
11. Doug Strachan
12. David Winters



CITY OF ATLANTA

PENSION INVESTMENT BOARD

General Employees' Pension Representative - Candidates Brief Bio

ALFRED BERRY, JR.

Alfred Berry, Jr. is a 2014 retiree of the City of Atlanta where he worked for 30+ years in the Department of Finance and the Atlanta City Council. He served four terms as a trustee to the City's General Employees' Pension Plan where he was elected as Chairman from 2003 – 2013. Currently, he serves on the City's General Employees' Pension Plan Administrative Committee and the Investment Board, a member of the Credit Union of Atlanta's Board of Directors and a member of Fayette County's Square Foot Ministry Board of Directors.

He earned his Master's Degree in Public Administration with a concentration in Finance from Georgia State University (1987) and enjoys travelling, spending time with family and playing golf.

NAPOLEON BLACK

Currently I am a Class One, Wastewater Plant Operator at the RM Clayton Wastewater Treatment Plant.

I served eight honorable years in the U.S. Army. The G.I. Bill allowed me to attend the University of Illinois and earn a dual Bachelor of Science degree in Finance and Economics.

I am a long-term conservative to moderate investor in low expense ratio exchange traded funds and no-load mutual fund products with a long-term objective of earning stable consistent returns.

I volunteer and teach financial literacy, budgeting and consumer credit management to individuals and families for free. I believe financial literacy and long-term investing can lead to people achieving a secure level of financial stability as well as being able to build legacy wealth for their families.

TRACIE CHAMBERS

My name is Tracie Chambers, a 47-year-old African American female with a drive for people. I started with the City of Atlanta in 2007, working as a driver/collector in sanitation. Working as a garbage collection female was challenging yet rewarding. Public Works was the foundation for my success. I earned a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice with a concentration in Business Law, while working on the back of the garbage truck. However, earning a BS was still not enough for me. I went back to obtain a Master's degree in Public Administration (MPA) with a concentration in Business Management. Public Works was and still is my foundation. I became a

code enforcement officer for sanitation while obtaining my MPA. I feel that it is my obligation to work and fight for the people that have helped me along the way. I then received employment at the City Solicitor's office as a community coordinator, yet still advocating for Public Works. One year later, I was back with Public Works as the Code Enforcement manager for the (SWEET) Solid Waste Education and Enforcement Team. I have worked with City council officials ensuring all concerns are addressed within various communities.

JOHN H. CULBRETH

John Culbreth was a staff member in City and County government for over 38 years. He received his Bachelor of Arts Degree from Clark Atlanta University, and continued graduate study in Urban Government Administration at Georgia State University.

John Culbreth is the former Director of Parks, Recreation, Entertainment and Conservation for the City of Jacksonville (Florida). He has also served in the capacities of Director of Parks and Recreation for Fulton County Government in Atlanta, GA; Deputy Commissioner for Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs; and the Neighborhood Planning Unit (NPU) Coordinator with the City of Atlanta's Bureau of Planning, wherein it was his responsibility to serve as liaison between the City and the NPUs for comprehensive planning programs in the areas of economic development, parks, housing, land use, environment, transportation, and public safety.

Over the years, Culbreth's dedication and hard work afforded him several positions within Fulton County and the City of Atlanta Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs. He was District Recreation Manager of Northwest Atlanta Community Centers, Assistant to the Bureau Director of Business Administration Operations, and Management Services Officer. Additionally, as Special Assistant to the Commissioner, a position requiring constant interaction with other City Department Heads, the Mayor's office, and the City Council, he managed day-to-day operations of the department. He also managed the Commissioner's office budget, press relations and publicity, prepared communications and correspondence for the Mayor and Commissioner, and made presentations to community and non-profit organizations on behalf of the City of Atlanta.

Culbreth was also a Senior Economic Development Specialist in the City of Atlanta's Office of Economic Development. He assisted in the management and development, as well as the interagency and intergovernmental coordination of Underground Atlanta. Diligently, he managed the process of construction, architectural and service contracts, and letters of agreement. He tracked legislation through the City's legislative process, tracked bills in both the House of Representatives and the Senate, and lobbied on behalf of the City's legislative package with the State of Georgia General Assembly. Culbreth was elected to the City of Atlanta Employees' Pension Board, which handles an annual budget of approximately one billion dollars, and he was also the Chair of the Pension Board, and he has served as President on the Peachtree Towers Board of Directors, and the Grady Hospital Board of Visitors.

Due to his love for - and allegiance to - public service, the list of civic organizations and affiliations to which John Culbreth is a member is extensive. He has served on the Board of Directors as Chairman of the Board for the Fulton County Drug and Alcohol Center. He has served as Vice

President of Southwest Community Groups, Trice Ministries, and World Youth Alliance, Inc. He has also served on the Board of Directors for the West End Merchants Commercial Development Association and the Atlanta Peach Caribbean Carnival. He served on the Atlanta Business League/International Trade Committee; served as chairperson of a Neighborhood Planning Unit in Southwest Atlanta; co-chairperson of the March of Dimes, and served on the Community Services and Development Advisory Groups of the Atlanta Regional Commission. His affiliations extend far beyond those mentioned.

As an employee and as a civic leader, John Culbreth has certainly been an asset to the City of Jacksonville, Fulton County, the City of Atlanta, and any organization of which he is a part.

SHERRI THOMPSON DICKERSON

Sherri Thompson Dickerson is the Senior Vice President and Chief Human Capital Officer with the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (Metro), where she is accountable for developing and executing the Human Capital strategy, including talent acquisition, compensation and benefits management, and pension administration.

Sherri began her employment with the City of Atlanta in 1994. In 1998, Sherri left employment with the City to accept a senior management position with the U.S. Department of Commerce, Census 2000. Her responsibilities included the operational management of 56 offices throughout Alabama, Florida and Georgia.

On her return to the City of Atlanta in 2000, Sherri served in many senior-level roles within the Department of Human Resources, advising elected and appointed officials as well as other senior managers on the suite of human capital needs, including employment decisions and ensuring compliance with corporate policies as well as federal and state regulations. Sherri also provided design and technical expertise in the adoption and implementation of 2011 Pension Reform. Sherri retired from the City of Atlanta in 2019 after 25 years of service.

Sherri holds a Master of Political Management from Georgia Washington University, Master Public Administration from Valdosta State University and Bachelor of Science from Spelman College. She has been a Certified Senior Professional in Human Resources (SPHR) since December 2001 and a Certified Society of Human Resource Management – Senior Certified Professional (SHRM-SCP) since 2015.

GERARD JACKSON

Gerard Jackson has worked for the City of Atlanta for over 15 years. He is currently employed as a Recreation Supervisor. Mr. Jackson has served as an elected Financial Trustee of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME). Mr. Jackson was responsible for overseeing and auditing funds to ensure compliance with the law. He was responsible for making sure member funds were properly invested. Mr. Jackson's fiduciary responsibilities included compiling reports and making recommendations. He worked closely with Certified

Public Accountants and the Chief Financial Officer to conduct audits and ensure transparency.

If elected Mr. Jackson will diligently work to protect retirement funds.

Because of his strong advocacy for City employees, Gerard has won the *endorsement* of AFSCME Local 1644 President, Tracey Thornhill, State Representative Dewey McClain, Atlanta City Councilman, Matt Westmoreland.

BENJAMIN KUKU

I am currently a real estate consultant with Keller Williams Realty. I retired from the City of Atlanta in 2014 as a Senior Director. Over a period of 30 years, I served in various financial positions with the Departments of Finance and Watershed Management.

I hold a Bachelor of Business Administration (Accounting) from Austin Peay State University and a Master of Business Administration (Finance) from Clark Atlanta University.

FRED MARTIN

Fred Martin has worked for the City of Atlanta at the Hartsfield Landfill as a landfill operator for 22 years. He is knowledgeable about the City of Atlanta and the pension board.

DUTCH ROBINSON

Reverend Evangelist Dutch Robinson is a native of Dayton, Ohio. Along with his brothers and sisters, he grew up as a member of Mont Enon Baptist Church. He moved to the metro Atlanta around the early 1980's.

While in Atlanta, he met his future wife, an Atlanta native Lucille McGee, they married in 1992 and 25 years of marriage has grown children and grandchildren.

Rev Robinson attended Carver Bible College, Atlanta Ga. Graduate of Rhema Bible Training College in Tulsa, Oklahoma, earned a B.A. in Communications from Sinclair Community College, Dayton Ohio.

He was License and Ordained by Dr. Leland Collier, Pastor of Solid Rock Church, Atlanta Ga. He organized Dutch Robinson Evangelistic Association with the State of Ga. and preached all over Atlanta metro area, and different parts of Georgia and others States, also he preached the gospel of Jesus Christ internationally in London England.

Author of the book; Enforcing Kingdom Victory, Rev Robinson supported and worked with various ministries, Billy Graham crusade, held at Georgia Dome, Christ for all Nations, ministry of Reinhard Bonnke, held at Phillips Arena, Atlanta Ga.

He was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award for recognition of National Community Service, signed by the President of the United States, Barack Obama, also received a Patent for new product idea from the United States Patent & Trademark Office.

Retired after a thirty-year career with Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport as a Fleet Manager & Safety Officer.

Rev Robinson continues to be ready to do the will of God, going into all the World and Preaching the Gospel of Jesus bringing many souls to salvation.

MARQUEE SCALE

I was born and raised in Winston-Salem, North Carolina and I am a graduate of East Forsyth High School class of 1994. I am currently an employee in the City of Atlanta Parks & Recreation Department. As a Park Worker, one of the many duties I undertake is beautifying the Parks' grounds by keeping the lawns green and litter free.

One of my top goals for the Pension Board is to secure better individualized pension plans for current employees. An additional goal is to explore getting better packages for those employees that are retiring with the years of service but who do not meet the age requirement.

In 2014 and 2019 I was awarded Employee of the Month due to my dedication, passion and hard work in the Parks and Recreation Department.

In 2015 I advocated for salary increases for those who were making less than \$15 an hour and the result was successful.

In 2016 I completed the Atlanta Fire Rescue Program known as (ACERT) Atlanta Community Emergency Response Team.

I am known in my personal and professional life as the go-to person for getting results. I have developed a solid reputation as a change agent and would love the opportunity to use those skills in my appointment to the Board.

DOUG STRACHAN

In 2010, I was elected to the GEPF Board with one mandate: save the pension. With the help of some dedicated and talented people, I was privileged to do that. See for yourself that this is true ***in the last paragraph of page five of the May 2011 Board meeting minutes.*** <http://www.atlantaga.gov/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=1395>.

For you, I also humbly lead others to accomplish these necessary things, which are all verifiable in our online minutes:

- Ensured investment managers reported ***performance after*** their ***fees*** were taken out, so we could guarantee best performance at lowest cost
- Posted all meeting ***minutes online***
- Moved 1/3 of our pension dollars into ***low-cost index funds***, saving us ***millions*** of dollars over the last decade
- Secured competent outside legal counsel to help professionalize pension administration to ***protect precious*** pension ***funds***

Due to the 2018 pension Boards' consolidation, you, the participants, have a smaller proportionate voice in how your ***precious funds*** are invested, and how such monies are allocated for necessary services such as third-party plan administration, legal, actuarial, investment consultancy, and investment management. ***Fees matter!*** Although, as your representative, I would have just one vote, I solemnly convey to you that, as your fiduciary, as the person acting on your behalf, I will take my duties of ***loyalty, care and prudence*** as paramount. I will do ***everything in my power to protect your future***, with a focus on doing what is right, and ***lowering fees***.

DAVID WINTERS

David Winters has been employed with the City of Atlanta for 21 yrs. During this time, he was an Engineer in Wastewater Treatment for 6 years, a Modeler for drinking water distribution projects for 6 years and a Facility Design Manager in the Office of Engineering Services during the remaining time. David, his wife and two children reside in Kennesaw, Ga.

David has a BS in Chemical Engineering and an MBA from Auburn University. Prior to joining the City, he was employed by Kemira Chemicals as a Process Engineer and Georgia Pacific as a Manager Trainee. His experience and education will help him represent the City Employees if elected to be a member of the board.