



**CITY OF ATLANTA**  
**DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION INVESTMENT BOARD**

---

**DEFINED BENEFIT PLAN INVESTMENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE FOR  
POLICE OFFICERS' PENSION FUND**

**TO:** CITY OF ATLANTA RETIREES AND ACTIVE EMPLOYEES  
Police Officers' 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, Police Officers' Pension Fund

An election will be held for one (1) representative of the Defined Benefits Plan Investment Board Police Officers' 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 Police Officers' Pension Fund Candidates**

1. Major Bizzell
2. Michael Jones
3. Richard Light



# CITY OF ATLANTA

## PENSION INVESTMENT BOARD

---

### Police Officers' Pension Representative - Candidates Brief Bio

#### MAJOR BIZZELL

My name is Major Bizzell. According to my family's oral history, we are Native Americans (Creek Indians) and free black men. My father's father and my father were sharecroppers. My mother instilled in me a love for education. We were low income; however, I had a wealthy upbringing because I had a loving and supporting family.

Upon graduating from high school, I immediately left home to join the United States Marine Corps. After finishing a year in Okinawa, Japan, I came back home and met a beautiful lady. It did not take me long to realize I needed her in my life and asked her to marry me. That was the most important event in my life.

We have been together as husband and wife for 40 years and raised two beautiful daughters and a son.

My wife and I have placed a great deal of value on treating people with respect regardless of color, creed, or nationality. We put a very high value on education and hard work. We do not believe that anyone owes us anything in life but to treat us fairly.

After being Honorably discharged from the United States Marine Corps, I worked as an Atlanta Police Officer, assigned to Zone 1 and later the Airport. In 2007, I became extremely ill. I lost everything and was homeless for a while because I was unable to work. Around 2008, I retired from the City. At first, my attitude toward this health scare was to live every day like it was my last. Then I had a spiritual reawakening and realized that life goes on, and I needed to live and not just prepare to die. I began rebuilding my life.

Several times while in the Marine Corps, I attempted to obtain my college degree, but because of money issues and our workload, I couldn't complete my education. Being retired from the Atlanta Police Department, I had the time to go back to school to complete the degree I started those many years before. Then I finished my first associate degree from Central Texas College in 2017; I was awarded a second Paralegal degree From Atlanta Technical College in 2018 and then a B.S. in Legal Studies from Clayton State University in 2021. I'm presently working on a master's degree in Security Management from American Military University.

Life hasn't been easy for me, but I saw a quote printed on the rim of a British two-pound coin during our 2016 visit to London: "we stand on the shoulders of giants." To me, that means the men and women that have come before us have blazed a clear trail for us to follow. It doesn't mean that things will be easy; it means that our dreams are achievable.

Today I'm healthier than I have ever been. I appreciate life. I appreciate this beautiful gift. I thank God for the opportunity to share each day with my brothers and sisters from another mother. As my wife and I travel around this beautiful planet, we notice that we have a lot more in common with citizens from other nations than we know.

I would be honored to serve the men and women that have given so much to the citizens of Atlanta.

### **MICHAEL JONES**

I have 8 years sworn and while most of my time has been assigned to Zone 3 (all watches), I have also served in assignments such as APEX and ACS (entering auto detail unit). Being a younger officer, I think it's important to spread the knowledge regarding our current retirement.

### **RICHARD LIGHT**

I'm a retired Atlanta Police Officer that served 30 years. I have been a trustee for 13 years. I'm currently serving on the City of Atlanta Investment Board, sub-committee for Investments and the Chairman of the Police Administrative Board. When I became a trustee January 1, 2008, the value of the police pension fund was \$500 million. The current value of the fund is \$1,500,000,000. A couple of years ago I participated with the Union and gave a presentation in front of City Council on some ideas for change. Many young officers have asked if the pension benefits will change for them. One of the many things that I am working on with SBA, our pension administrator, is a new pension calculator for active participants.