

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

September 10, 2021
Webex Teleconference
11:00 A.M – 1:00 P.M.

Board Members Present

Frank Sims	Chairman
Natalyn Archibong	Councilmember, City of Atlanta
Mohamed Balla	CFO, City of Atlanta
Lisa Bracken	APS, City of Atlanta
Reggie Grant	Appointee, City of Atlanta
Quentin Hutchins	APS, City of Atlanta
Rick “Bud” Light	Police, City of Atlanta
Jeffrey Norman	HR Commissioner, City of Atlanta
Marci Collier Overstreet	Councilmember, City of Atlanta

Others Present

Mary Shah	Strategic Benefits Advisors
Stephanie Atli	Strategic Benefits Advisors
Lori Pocock	Strategic Benefits Advisors
Carl Christie	City of Atlanta, Legal
Sharon Broach	City of Atlanta, Legal
Tyronia Smith	City of Atlanta, Legal
Ed Emerson	Morris, Manning & Martin
Chelsea Deppert	Morris, Manning & Martin
Virginia Brooks	Retiree
Georgia Miller	Retiree

Chairman Sims called the Webex teleconference meeting to order at 11:03 a.m. Chairman Sims noted that a quorum was present for the meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to resolve two outstanding overpayment appeals for Ms. Virginia Brooks and Ms. Georgia Miller.

Chairman Sims asked Mr. Christie to provide a summary of each retiree’s situation.

The first appeal Mr. Christie reviewed was for Georgia Miller, a member of the General Pension Plan (APS). In 2007, Ms. Miller signed a notarized document stating that her pension would be approximately \$4,585 per month for life starting in September 2007. However, she actually received approximately \$5,285 from September 2007 through August 2019 resulting in an overpayment of \$131,319. There was an original adjustment to correct the gross pension amount. In October 2020, the General Committee voted to further reduce the gross pension by 25% to recoup the overpayment. This reduction began in May 2021.

Public discussion of the appeal followed. Mr. Hutchins expressed his opinion that Ms. Miller knew the amount received based on the information he reviewed. Ms. Miller stated that she had no idea the amount was incorrect and that she never received over \$5,000 in pension payments. She received approximately \$4,500 with the COLA. Ms. Miller stated that at one point recently under the Trump administration her monthly payment increased by about \$300 and she immediately called

the pension office to inquire about the sudden increase. She stated that the original error in her pension benefit was not her error and asked if the recoupment could be \$700 per month instead of \$1,400. Ms. Overstreet commented that it did not seem to be a malicious attempt on the part of Ms. Miller and asked Ms. Miller if she reviewed her pension amount when she signed the application. Ms. Miller did not remember and Ms. Overstreet asked when she first realized there was a problem. Ms. Miller said her first indication was the additional \$300 during the Trump administration. Mr. Light asked if Ms. Miller was receiving her pension statement each month and she agreed she was. Mr. Christie mentioned that even though the gross amount may have been over \$5,000, the net amount deposited could have been in the \$4,000 range after tax withholding and deductions. Ms. Miller asked why the Board isn't going after the people who made the mistake. Chairman Sims said the Board will take everything into consideration and get back to Ms. Miller in writing in a few weeks.

The second appeal Mr. Christie reviewed was for Virginia Brooks, a member of the General Pension Plan (APS). Ms. Brooks was in the 1964 plan which is not eligible for COLA increases. Her original pension beginning in August 2004 was correct, paying approximately \$3,207 per month. However, beginning in January 2005 and each year going forward to March 2019 she received a COLA increase resulting in an overpayment in the amount of \$101,253.30. There was an original adjustment in 2019 to correct the gross pension amount. In October 2020, the General Committee voted to further reduce the gross pension by 25% to recoup the overpayment. This reduction began in May 2021.

Ms. Brooks asked for a continuance of this appeal and stated that she was not given adequate notice of the hearing. The appeals packet summarizing her overpayment and appeal that was provided to the Board was mailed to her September 1st but she did not receive it until September 9th. She stated that she was not aware of the hearing until the day before. She requested notice of the meeting in writing in advance so that she can be better prepared and bring representation with her to the hearing.

The meeting entered Executive Session at 11:39 a.m.

The meeting exited Executive Session at 11:55 a.m.

There being no further discussion at this time at 11:58 a.m. Chairman Sims called for adjournment.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chairman, Frank Sims

These minutes were adopted on _____, 2021