



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

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**DEFINED BENEFIT PLAN ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE  
FOR FIREFIGHTERS' PENSION FUND**

TO: CITY OF ATLANTA ACTIVE EMPLOYEES  
Firefighters' Pension Fund

FROM: Tarlesha Williams Smith, Esq., Commissioner, Human Resources

DATE: September 27, 2022

RE: Election of one (1) City of Atlanta Active Employee Representative to the  
Firefighters' Pension Fund Administrative Committee

An election will be held for one (1) City of Atlanta Active Employee Representative to the Firefighters' Pension Fund Administrative Committee. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes will serve a three (3) year period which is to end December 31, 2025.

Please accept this letter as notice of the candidates running for this position. Biographies have been attached for each candidate. The tentative voting period for this election will be November 14, 2022 through November 18, 2022.

**City of Atlanta Firefighters' Pension Fund Candidates**

1. Anaré Holmes
2. Russell Sykes



# CITY OF ATLANTA

## PENSION INVESTMENT BOARD

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### **Firefighters' Pension Representative - Candidates Brief Bio**

#### **ANARÉ V. HOLMES**

NBC News hails Anaré V. Holmes as a "fearless firefighter" in its inaugural #Pride30 list of LGBTQ innovators, change makers and rising stars who are making the community proud. Holmes cut his teeth executing fiscally sound policy decisions as a former Advisor and Impact Council Member to the United Way's Children, Youth and Families' Needs Allocations Committee.

As an Impactor, Holmes influenced budgets of \$500,000 to \$3,000,000 to identify funding priorities and review grant allocation proposals targeting the needs of children, youth and families. He builds and strengthens community by amplifying the voices of human resilience. His ability to empower teams with effective communication strategies promotes an equitable workforce.

He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Family and Consumer Journalism from the University of Wisconsin and a Master of Fine Arts from the University of Georgia's Grady School of Journalism. His service with Atlanta Fire Rescue Department began November 21, 2013. His contributions add value to AFRD's mission through his service as: Diversity and Inclusion Initiative Co-Chair, Back-up Public Information Officer, 2021 Breakfast with Our Bravest Script Writer, EMS Committee Member, LGBTQ Liaison to Mayor's Office, Grady Mobile Integrated Health Collaborator, and former consulting writer/researcher to the Training Academy's Paramedic Program. His humanitarian efforts are recognized on the Netflix series Instant Dream Home, now streaming.

#### **RUSSELL W. SYKES**

Currently, I am the City of Atlanta Active Employee Representative to the Firefighters' Pension Fund Administration Committee. Within the Atlanta Fire Rescue Department, I'm a Sergeant with over 14 years of service to the city. My current assignment is serving as a ladder truck driver in the Lakewood community of southeast Atlanta. I have held my current rank for over 6 years. Currently instruct hands on training classes at Wichita HOT in Wichita, Kansas and the Fire Department Instructors Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana. Also served as an adjunct instructor for both the Atlanta and Georgia State Fire Academies. I believe that the pension fund is an important tool that Atlanta Firefighters have for recruiting and retaining our members and hope to assist in the continued administration and management of the fund.