



CITY OF ATLANTA

DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLAN INVESTMENT BOARD

**DEFINED BENEFIT PLAN ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE
FOR THE FIREFIGHTERS' PENSION FUND**

TO: CITY OF ATLANTA ACTIVE EMPLOYEES
Firefighters' Pension Fund

FROM: Calvin Blackburn, Commissioner, Human Resources

DATE: September 30, 2025

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

An election will be held for one (1) City of Atlanta Active Employee Representative to the Firefighters' Pension Fund Administration Committee. The Administration Committee will meet bi-monthly to consider and approve service pension and disability pension applications submitted by participants in the Firefighters' Pension Fund. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes will serve a three (3) year period from January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2028.

Please accept this letter as notice of the candidates running for this position. Biographies are attached for each candidate.

The voting period for this election will be November 17, 2025 through November 21, 2025. Votes will be counted December 2, 2025 at City Hall.

City of Atlanta Firefighters' Pension Fund Candidates

1. Christopher Knott
2. Russell W. Sykes



CITY OF ATLANTA

FIREFIGHTERS' PENSION FUND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Firefighters' Pension Representative - Candidates Brief Bio

CHRISTOPHER KNOTT

I am a proud, 13-year sworn employee of the City of Atlanta Fire Rescue Department and a vested member of the Firefighters' Pension Fund.

Over the years, I have had the privilege of serving on various internal committees within the department and have consistently demonstrated my commitment to accountability and service. I am also a dedicated member of the community, focused on supporting both my fellow firefighters and the citizens we serve. I believe that representation on the Pension Administration Committee is critical in protecting the interests of our members and ensuring transparency.

I currently serve as a sergeant on Medic 1 and bring with me over a decade of experience in field operations, leadership, and team development. My previous committee work has given me firsthand exposure to policy review, resource management, and group decision-making. I am confident in my ability to serve with integrity and represent the voices of our active members as the Committee reviews and approves service and disability pension applications.

Thank you for considering my candidacy. I welcome the opportunity to serve and uphold the mission and trust of the Firefighters' Pension Fund.

RUSSELL W. SYKES

Currently, I am the active employee representative to the City of Atlanta Firefighters' Pension Fund Administration Committee, which I've served since 2019. Within the Atlanta Fire Rescue Department, I am a Lieutenant with over 17 years of service to the city. My current assignment is serving as the Aide to the C-shift Commander. I've held my current rank for almost 3 years. Outside of AFRD, I currently instruct and coordinate hands-on training classes at Wichita HOT, in Wichita, Kansas and the Fire Department Instructors Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana. I've also served as an adjunct instructor for both the Atlanta and Georgia Fire Academies.

It is a strong belief of mine that a strong defined benefit retirement plan is a vital part of the recruitment and retainment of Atlanta Firefighters. It is my hope, with my re-election, we can continue to maintain a strong, viable, and efficient pension fund.