#### STATE OF CONNECTICUT

### STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT COMMISSION

# FEBRUARY 16, 2023 MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM CONVENED AT 9:06 a.m.

## Present:

Peter Adomeit, Chairman Michael Bailey, Trustee Karen Buffkin, Trustee Michael Carey, Trustee Carl Chisem, Trustee John Disette, Trustee Tara Downes, Deputy Comptroller, Ex Officio Member David Krayeski, Trustee Sal Luciano, Trustee Karen Nolen, Trustee Michael O'Brien, Trustee Claude Poulin, Trustee Timothy Ryor, Trustee Mark Sciota, Municipal Liaison Rebecca Simonsen, Trustee Ted Wright, Chief Investment Officer, Office of the Treasurer, Ex Officio Member

#### Absent:

Angel Quiros, Trustee

## Also Present:

Bruce Barth, Tax Counsel to the Commission, Robinson & Cole Cindy Cieslak, General Counsel to the Commission, Rose Kallor Elizabeth Doyon, Tax Counsel to the Commission, Robinson & Cole John Garrett, Cavanaugh Macdonald

TRANSCRIPTIONIST: Karin A. Empson

Also Present, continued:

Robert Helfand, Assistant Director, Retirement Services Division John Herrington, Director, Retirement Services Division Charlotte Moller, Director of Policy, Office of the State Comptroller

Colin Newman, Retirement Services Division Michael Rose, General Counsel to the Commission, Rose Kallor Justin Raymond, Attorney for Andrew Munson Andrew Munson (Proceedings commenced at 9:06 a.m.)

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CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: This is the February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023 monthly meeting of the State Employees Retirement Commission being held remotely using Zoom technology. Peter Adomeit here.

Cindy, do you have the attendance, please? MS. CIESLAK: Good morning. This is Cindy Cieslak. Present this morning, we have Chairman Peter Adomeit; Trustee Mike Bailey; Tax Counsel from Robinson & Cole Bruce Barth; Trustee Karen Buffkin; Trustee Michael Carey; Trustee Carl Chisem; General Counsel from Rose Kallor, Cindy Cieslak; Trustee John DiSette; Deputy Comptroller and Ex Officio Member of the Retirement Commission, Tara Downes; Tax Counsel from Robinson & Cole, Elizabeth Doyon; Assistant Director, Retirement Services Division, Robert Helfand; Division Director, Retirement Services Division, John Herrington; Trustee David Krayeski; Trustee Sal Luciano; Assistant Director, Retirement Services Division, Colin Newman; Trustee Karen Nolen; Trustee Michael O'Brien; Actuarial Trustee Claude Poulin; Actuarial Trustee Tim Ryor; Municipal Liaison Mark

Sciota; Chief Investment Officer, Ex Officio Member of the Commission from the Office of the Treasurer, Ted Wright; John Garrett from Cavanaugh Macdonald; and

CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Okay. Thank you. We need a motion to amend the agenda, please.

Claude Poulin.

Justin Raymond and Andrew Munson.

MR. POULIN: This is Claude Poulin. Mr.

Chairman, I move to amend the agenda to add, after Item

18, the following Item 19: Request the Commission to

Accept the CMERS Report of the Actuary of the Valuation

Prepared as of June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022, and the following Item

20: Request the Commission to Accept the CMERS GASB 67

Report Prepared as of June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

MR. BAILEY: Bailey, second.

CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Okay. All in favor, say aye or raise your hand.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Aye.

CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Opposed, nay or raise your hand. It's unanimous; the ayes have it. Thank you.

Chairman's Report, it's going to be quite short. Just kudos once again out to the Retirement Services Division and all the people who participated in making that operation work as smoothly as possible.

Do we have anything to say, Tara Downes,

Deputy Comptroller?

MS. DOWNES: Good morning. Not much to say, just I'd like to recognize that we've got Charlotte

Moller here joining us. She's our new Policy Director.

And so she's just familiarizing herself more with the various programs that we do. So hi, Charlotte. And she's also helping us monitor, you know, legislation that's coming through that may or may not affect, you know, the work that the Division and our agency does.

So just wanted to welcome Charlotte.

MS. MOLLER: Good morning, everyone.

CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Okay. Division Director's

Report?

MR. HERRINGTON: Yes, good morning, everyone.

CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: John Herrington.

MR. HERRINGTON: Yes, good morning, everyone. Yeah, this is John Herrington. I've forwarded the monthly report for the Division's activities. As you can see, the story has been pretty consistent from the summer. As the surge - as we pass through the surge, most of the months of retirement activity has been historically low. We continue to utilize that additional bandwidth and capacity to devote to some of the improvements to processes that we've kind of been waiting for time to kind of gather our breath.

We are working first and foremost on updating our website. As part of that, we have updated the SPE's. We've forwarded those to tax counsel. So we would hope that perhaps as early as next month, we would have drafts to share with the Commission for acceptance and/or approval.

Some other issues that we're working through would be we continue to get completely on track with the disability numbers. We are just about where we need to be where most people, if they applied today, they would go perhaps in as little as 60 days and hopefully no more than 90 days if they have a completed application. So that is continued progress that we continue to make there.

Also with respect to some of the legislative changes, we continue to monitor a number of proposals. There's been a lot of activity and/or questions regarding the pending regulation with respect to MERS reemployment. We hope that that regulation will be approved at the end of next month and that we can kind of move forward with that. It appears as though there's at least one legislative proposal that would amend the statute to comport with our regulations. So I think that that's a good development there.

And the only other issue to report is that we

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     will be going out to RFP perhaps as early as tomorrow,
2
     and if not, early next week for actuarial services and
3
     the accounting services associated with the CMERS GASB
4
     reporting.
                But that's all I have to report this month.
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                CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Okay, thank you. Any
6
     questions or comments?
7
                Okay, hearing none, moving on to new matters.
8
               MS. CIESLAK: Mr. Chairman, this is Cindy
9
     Cieslak. I will just note for the record that Trustee
10
     Rebecca Simonsen and General Counsel from Rose Kallor
11
     Michael Rose have joined us.
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                CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Thank you.
13
                Commissioner Luciano, are you ready to make
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15
     the motions, please?
                MS. CIESLAK: Mr. Chairman, Trustee Luciano
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     might be having technical difficulties as he is just
17
     rejoining us right now.
18
19
                CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Is he there?
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                MS. CIESLAK: This is Cindy Cieslak. Sal,
     can you hear us?
21
                CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: (Inaudible) Welcome back,
22
23
     Sal.
                MR. LUCIANO: Sorry, I got kicked out.
24
                CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Yeah. Are you ready to
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1
     make the motions, please?
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               MR. LUCIANO: Actually, I just got on the
3
     computer.
                CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Okay. So shall I have
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     someone else do it then?
5
               MR. LUCIANO: Yeah, that'd be fine.
6
7
                CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Okay. Let's see, Michael
8
     Bailey.
               MR. LUCIANO: Actually, I can do it.
                CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Oh, you can do it? Okay.
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11
               MR. LUCIANO: No, I can't do it. Sorry.
                CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Okay. Commissioner
12
     Bailey?
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               MR. BAILEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Happy
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15
     to serve.
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                CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Again, thank you.
               MR. BAILEY: This is Michael Bailey. I move
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     approval of the January 19th, 2023 minutes.
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19
               MR. LUCIANO: Sal Luciano, second.
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                CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Any discussion? All in
     favor, say aye or raise your hands. Opposed, nay or
21
     raise your hands. The ayes have it.
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               MR. BAILEY: Mr. Chairman, this is Michael
23
     Bailey. I move approval of the Connecticut SERS
24
     expenses for the month of January 2023.
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               MR. LUCIANO: Sal Luciano, second.
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                CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Any discussion? Hearing
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     none, all in favor, say aye or raise your hands.
     Opposed, nay or raise your hands. The ayes have it.
4
                MR. BAILEY: Mr. Chairman, Michael Bailey.
5
     move approval of the State Employees Retirement
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7
     Commission Chairman's per diem expenses.
                MR. LUCIANO: Sal Luciano, second.
8
                CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Any discussion? Hearing
9
     none, all in favor, say aye or raise your hands.
10
     Opposed, nay or raise your hands. The ayes have it.
11
                MR. BAILEY: This is Michael Bailey. I move
12
     approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission
13
     Union Trustee Claude Poulin's per diem and travel
14
15
     expenses reimbursements with Claude abstaining.
16
               MR. LUCIANO: Sal Luciano, second.
                CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Any discussion? Hearing
17
     none, all in favor, say aye or raise your hands.
18
19
     Opposed, nay or raise your hands. The ayes have it.
               MR. BAILEY: Mr. Chairman, this is Michael
20
21
     Bailey. I move approval of the State Employees
     Retirement Commission Management Trustee Tim Ryor's per
22
23
     diem expenses with Tim Ryor abstaining.
                MR. LUCIANO: Sal Luciano, second.
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                CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Any discussion? Hearing
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1
     none, all in favor, say aye or raise your hands.
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     Opposed, nay or raise your hands. The ayes have it.
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                MR. BAILEY: Mr. Chairman, I move Items
     Number 6 and 7 on the agenda to have the Commission
4
     accept invoices from Robinson & Cole and from Rose
5
     Kallor.
6
7
                MR. LUCIANO: Sal Luciano, second.
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                CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Any discussion? Hearing
     none, all in favor, say aye or raise your hands.
9
     Opposed, nay or raise your hands. The ayes have it.
10
               MR. BAILEY: Mr. Chairman, this is Michael
11
     Bailey. I move Items 8, 9, and 10 on the agenda to
12
     have the Commission approve the Connecticut State
13
     Employees Retirement System service retirements,
14
15
     voluntary pending retirements, and disability
     retirements for the month of January 2023.
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                MR. LUCIANO: Sal Luciano, second.
17
                CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Any discussion? Hearing
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19
     none, all in favor, say aye or raise your hands.
20
     Opposed, nay or raise your hands. The ayes have it.
21
                MR. BAILEY: Mr. Chairman, Michael Bailey. I
     move approval of the Connecticut State Employees
22
23
     Retirement System's municipal employees' retirements
     for the month of January 2023.
24
                MR. LUCIANO: Sal Luciano, second.
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CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Any discussion? Hearing
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2
     none, all in favor, say aye or raise your hands.
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     Opposed, nay or raise your hands. The ayes have it.
               MR. BAILEY: This is Michael Bailey. I move
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     approval of the Municipal Retirement System disability
5
     retirement approvals.
6
7
               MR. LUCIANO: Luciano, second.
                CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Any discussion? Hearing
8
     none, all favor, say aye or raise your hands. Opposed,
9
     nay or raise your hands. The ayes have it.
10
11
               MR. BAILEY: This is Michael Bailey. I move
     acceptance of the recommendations by the Medical
12
     Examining Board for continued entitlement approvals.
13
               MR. LUCIANO: Sal Luciano, second.
14
15
                CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Any discussion? Hearing
     none, all in favor, say aye or raise your hands.
16
     Opposed, nay or raise your hands. The ayes have it.
17
               MR. BAILEY: Michael Bailey. I move
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19
     acceptance of the recommendations by the Medical
     Examining Board for continued entitlement tabled and
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21
     denials.
               MR. LUCIANO: Sal Luciano, second.
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23
                CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Any discussion? Hearing
     none, all in favor, say aye or raise your hands.
24
     Opposed, nay or raise your hands. The ayes have it.
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1
                MR. BAILEY: Michael Bailey. I move approval
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     of the Retirement Services Division request to
3
     discontinue the disability applications due to the one-
     year deadline associated with the rights to ask for a
4
     reconsideration of the Medical Examining Board denial.
5
               MR. LUCIANO: Sal Luciano, second.
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7
                CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Any discussion?
                                                    Hearing
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     none, all in favor, say aye or raise your hands.
     Opposed, nay or raise your hands. The ayes have it.
9
               MR. BAILEY: This is Michael Bailey. I move
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11
     approval of the Probate Judges and Employees Retirement
     Fund personnel expenses for the pay period December
12
     2022 through January 2023.
13
               MR. LUCIANO: Sal Luciano, second.
14
15
                CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Any discussion? Hearing
     none, all in favor, say aye or raise your hands.
16
     Opposed, nay or raise your hands. The ayes have it.
17
               MR. BAILEY: Mr. Chairman, this is Michael
18
19
     Bailey. I move approval of the Connecticut Probate
20
     Judges and Employees Retirement System retirements.
21
               MR. LUCIANO: Sal Luciano, second.
                CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Any discussion? Hearing
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23
     none, all in favor, say aye or raise your hands.
                MR. LUCIANO:
                             Aye.
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                CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Opposed, nay or raise your
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1
     hands. The ayes have it.
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                MR. BAILEY: Mr. Chairman, I'm going to move
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     to Item Number 19 on the agenda, which is to move
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     acceptance of the CMERS Report of the Actuary on the
     Valuation Prepared 6/30/2022.
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                MR. LUCIANO: Sal Luciano, second.
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7
                CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Any discussion? Hearing
     none, all in favor, say aye or raise your hands.
8
                UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Aye.
                CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Opposed, nay or raise your
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11
     hands. The ayes have it.
                MR. BAILEY: And I'm going to move Item
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     Number 20, acceptance of the CMERS GASB 67 Report
13
     Prepared as of 6/30/2022.
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                CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Any discussion?
                MR. LUCIANO: Sal Luciano, second.
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                CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: I'm sorry.
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                MR. LUCIANO: That's okay.
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                CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: I jumped the gun. Any
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     discussion? Hearing none, all in favor, say aye or
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     raise your hands.
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                MR. LUCIANO: Aye.
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                CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Opposed, nay or raise your
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     hands. The ayes have it.
                MR. BAILEY: Mr. Chairman, I'm going to move
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Item Number 18 on the agenda, which is to allow Andrew
Munson to appear via Zoom.

CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Yes, and he's represented by Attorney Justin Raymond.

So, Attorney Raymond, you have the floor.

MR. RAYMOND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Once again, my name is Justin Raymond and I represent Andrew Munson regarding to his request for a waiver of the two-year limitation in regard to his application for a (inaudible) pension with the State of Connecticut. My client is present via Zoom as well today.

This request was initially filed via Certified Mail August  $24^{\rm th}$ , 2017. I'm not going to go line-by-line through the contents of that. That is in the record, so I'll spare everyone the full details. I'll give a synopsis of Mr. Munson's position.

Mr. Munson officially separated from the State of Connecticut in June of 2014. However, his application for a disability pension was not forwarded until July of 2016. Mr. Munson is alleging that prior to the two (inaudible) he made multiple attempts through his human resources department to obtain further information with respect to applying for a disability pension in light of his intractable migraine headaches, which it's his position rendered him unable

to perform essential functions of his position.

Mr. Munson alleges that on multiple occasions, he was given information (inaudible) application could not be submitted until his application for a social security disability would be approved. So ultimately, the pension application and information that he had requested was never received by him. And as I'm sure everyone is aware, in order for a state employee to apply for a disability pension, the application packet needs to be prepared by the agency.

Mr. Munson did not receive any retirement information until the two-year deadline. After that time, he did submit his application for a disability pension, however the reason why we're here today is that it was received after the two years. So it is Mr. Munson's request that the application be allowed to be presented for review by the Medical Examining Board for a decision on the merits and that the two-year limitation be tolled as a result.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Thank you.

Any discussion? Yes-

MR. CAREY: Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: --Michael Bailey.

MR. CAREY: Hi. Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Okay. 2 MR. CAREY: Attorney Raymond, this is Mike 3 Carey from the Retirement Commission. A couple 4 questions for you. You had indicated in your statement that your client had - says that he had made multiple 5 attempts to work with HR in order to process a 6 7 disability retirement. Is there anything in the record 8 or any documentation that would support that? MR. RAYMOND: It is my understanding, and Mr. Munson can correct me if this is incorrect, but all of 10 his requests were verbal requests, so all of these are 11 oral conversations. It is my understanding that no 12 paperwork formally requesting this had been submitted. 13 Once again, Mr. Munson can correct me if that is 14 15 incorrect. MR. MUNSON: That's correct. 16 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Okay. Thank you. 17 18 MR. CAREY: And just to clarify the timing, 19 he separated on June 12th, 2014 and the application for 20 disability retirement came in in July of 2016? 21 MR. RAYMOND: Yes. 22 MR. MUNSON: Yes, sir. 23 MR. CAREY: Okay. MR. MUNSON: Sir, this is Andrew Munson. 24

just wanted to say that I was still then working on the

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social security disability, which I thought everything 1 2 relied on. I only sent the application in because I 3 was turning 55 and got a packet from the State, and I submitted that standard packet said - stating my desire 4 for the disability retirement. And that's when the 5 ball began rolling. My information I was relying on 6 7 came from the Director of Personnel at DMV. MR. CAREY: Thank you very much. I don't 8 have any other questions. 9 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Does anybody else have any 10 other questions? Any further discussions? 11 MR. LUCIANO: Can you tell me the name of the 12 person in HR that you were dealing with? 13 MR. MUNSON: Yeah. 14 15 MR. LUCIANO: And if that person would be willing to somehow verify your claim that you tried to 16 talk to them about receiving the disability pension, 17 get that paperwork through? 18 19 MR. MUNSON: It's - it's possible. His name 20 was - I'm trying to think of his first name. It was 21 Kosbo (phonetic). It's not Richard; I worked for Richard. But I'd have to go through my paperwork, sir, 22 23 and I do not have that with me. But he was the Director of Personnel at DMV for at least the last five 24

years I was there.

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CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Any further questions, Mr.
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2
     Luciano?
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                MR. LUCIANO: No.
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                CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Does anybody else have any
     questions? How do you wish to proceed?
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                MR. LUCIANO: His application is untimely, so
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7
     I think it would behoove us to see if we can get the
     Director of Personnel at DMV at the time or anyone at
8
     DMV HR to verify his claim that they spoke to him
9
     during this period.
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11
                CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: That would suggest we
     should table the matter until we find that information
12
     out; correct?
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                MR. LUCIANO: Yes.
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                CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Okay.
               MR. LUCIANO: I would like to make a motion
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     to table it to a date-specific next month, if we can,
17
     see if the Division can try to get that information.
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                CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: All right. Is there a
     second to the motion?
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                MR. BAILEY: Bailey, I'll second that motion.
                CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: All right. Is there any
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     further discussion on the motion? Hearing none, all in
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     favor, say aye or raise your hand. Opposed, nay or
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     raise your hand. The ayes have it.
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Mr. Raymond, thank you for showing up.
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                MR. RAYMOND: Thank you (inaudible).
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                CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: And we will be in contact
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     with you.
                MR. RAYMOND: Thank you.
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                CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: All right.
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                MR. BAILEY: Mr. Chairman, this is Michael
8
     Bailey.
                CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Yeah, go ahead.
                MR. BAILEY: I move that we suspend the
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11
     regular meeting and go into executive session for the
     purpose of discussing Items 1 through 6 on the
12
     executive session agenda. I also request that the
13
     following be included into the executive session: Bruce
14
15
     Barth, Cindy Cieslak, Elizabeth Doyon, if she's here,
16
     Robert Helfand, Colin Newman, Michael Rose, Tara
     Downes, John Herrington.
17
                Did I miss anyone?
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19
                MR. CIESLAK: This is Cindy Cieslak. Tara
     Downes does not need an invitation.
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                MR. BAILEY: Okay.
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                MS. CIESLAK: She is permitted to come in as
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23
     the Comptroller's representative. We do need an
     invitation to Charlotte Moller. I think she's still
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     here. Yes.
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               MR. BAILEY: So moved.
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               MS. CIESLAK: Okay. So I'm including
     Charlotte Moller. So Mr. Chairman, that covers
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4
     everyone.
                CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Okay. Is there a second?
               MR. LUCIANO: Sal Luciano, second.
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                CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: All in favor, say aye or
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     raise your hands. Opposed, nay or raise your hands.
     The ayes have it.
                Item Number 1-
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11
                MS. CIESLAK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This
     is Cindy Cieslak. Just give me a minute to make sure
12
     we are properly in executive session.
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                (The Commission was in executive session from
14
15
     9:27 a.m. until 9:42 a.m.)
16
                CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Okay.
               MR. LUCIANO: I'd like to make a motion that
17
     we set Sean McBride (phonetic) - Kilbride, we set him
18
19
     for a disability hearing.
                CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Is there a second?
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21
               MR. BAILEY: Second (inaudible).
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                CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Any discussion? All in
23
     favor, say aye or raise your hand. Opposed, nay or
     raise your hand. The ayes have it.
24
                MS. CIESLAK: Mr. Chairman, this is Cindy
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     Cieslak. Just for the record, setting him for a
2
     disability hearing before the Retirement Commission for
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     tolling, is that the intent of your motion?
                MR. LUCIANO: Yes.
4
                MS. CIESLAK: Thank you.
5
                CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Okay.
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7
                MR. LUCIANO: I'd like to make a motion
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     regarding Chavez, that we deny his request to waive his
     retirement benefits.
9
                MR. BAILEY: Bailey, second.
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11
                CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Any discussion? Hearing
     none, all in favor, say aye or raise your hand.
12
                MR. LUCIANO: Aye.
13
                CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Opposed, nay or raise your
14
15
     hand. The ayes have it.
16
                That concludes the hearing - meeting.
                MR. LUCIANO: Can-
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                CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: We need a motion to
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19
     adjourn.
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                MR. LUCIANO: Before we make that motion, I'd
     just like to make a point of personal privilege,
21
22
     please.
23
                CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Sure.
                MR. LUCIANO: I'd just like to take a moment
24
     of silence to think about the three people who died
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     recently from this board: Charlie Casella, Sandra Fae
2
     Brown-Brewton, and last week, Robert Coffey. We will
3
     miss them tremendously and we do miss them
     tremendously.
4
                I make a motion to adjourn.
5
                MR. BAILEY: Bailey, second.
6
7
                CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: All in favor, say aye or
     raise your hand. Opposed, nay or raise your hand. The
8
     ayes have it.
9
10
                Thank you all very much.
                MR. LUCIANO: Thank you.
11
12
                MR. CAREY: Sal, thank you. Appreciate that.
                MR. BARTH: Thank you, Sal. That was most
13
     appropriate. Bye, all.
14
                (Adjourned at 9:44 a.m.)
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I, Karin A. Empson, do hereby certify that the preceding pages are an accurate transcription of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement Commission meeting held electronically via Zoom, conducted at 9:06 a.m. on February 16, 2023. Karin G. Empson Karin A. Empson 03/17/2023 Date