

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT COMMISSION  
MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD MEETING

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Date November 1, 2024

HELD VIA ZOOM

CONVENED AT 9:24 A.M.

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Present (Via Zoom):

Nicolai Lieders, M.D.

Sokpoleak So, M.D.

Michael Gerstenfeld, M.D.

Robert Helfand, Retirement Services Division

Helena Bartolomeo, Retirement Services Division

Nabil Waheed, Retirement Services Division

Cindy Cieslak, Rose Kallor, LLP

Robin Kallor, Rose Kallor, LLP

(Proceedings commenced at 9:06 a.m.)

CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Meeting come to order, please. November 1, 2024, meeting of the Medical Examining Board is now in session. My name is Nikolai Lieders. The other doctors are Dr. Michael Gerstenfeld, and Dr. Poleak So. Present from the Office of the State Comptroller, Retirement Services Division are staff members from the Retirement Services Division, Mr. Robert Helfand, Helena Bartolomeo and Nabil Waheed. Also general counsel for the Retirement Commission and the Medical Examining Board, Cindy Cieslak.

Well, we have no change in the agenda, so I'm going to make a motion for us to go into executive session. While we are in executive session the public will not participate in the -- during the executive session. After we finish the executive session, they will come back for direction.

So I make a motion for us to enter into executive session, and I'm going to ask for the members of the Retirement Services Division as well as general counsel to stay for the executive meeting. Any seconds?

DR. SO: Second.

CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Okay. Is there any discussion? All in favor, say aye.

DR. SO: Aye.

DR. GERSTENFELD: Aye.

CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: All opposed, say nay. Motion passes. We are an executive -- going into executive session.

MS. CIESLAK: This is Cindy Cieslak. What that means for all of the members of the public and the applicants here, I'm going to place you back in the waiting room. The doctors are going to review your medical information in executive session so that that's not part of the public record. And then those who are on reconsideration will be invited in to make their statement. And then after the doctors have reviewed everyone, we will reenter public session, at which time you'll be able to hear the doctors make a decision on your application.

(The board was in executive session from 9:07 a.m. until  
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CHAIRPERSON LEIDERS: All right. So let me just tell you that the board will be making determinations and voting on those determinations. But I would like to remind members that only the final vote will be given today and not the reasons for the vote. In some cases there may not have been enough medical information to make a determination, or perhaps a non-service connected disability is more likely than a service connected disability. You may seek reconsideration of an initial denial. You will also receive the board's written determination within 2 to 4 weeks, which will provide you with that additional information. So proceeding to vote, I make a motion to deny Terrance Anderson's application for service

connected disability retirement.

MS. KALLOR: Is there a second?

DR. SO: So, second.

MS. KALLOR: All in -- any discussion? All in favor?

CHAIRPERSON LEIDERS: Leiders, aye.

DR. SO: So, aye.

DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

MS. KALLOR: Motion passes.

CHAIRPERSON LEIDERS: I'll make a motion to approve Vicki Bloomberg's application for service connected disability retirement.

MS. KALLOR: Is there a second?

DR. SO: So, second.

MS. KALLOR: Is there any discussion? All in favor?

CHAIRPERSON LEIDERS: Leiders, aye.

DR. SO: So, aye.

DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, abstain.

MS. KALLOR: Motion passes.

CHAIRPERSON LEIDERS: I make a motion to table Daniel Currin's application for non-service connected disability retirement.

MS. KALLOR: Can you mute yourself, sir?

PUBLIC: Sorry. I'm sorry about that.

MS. KALLOR: Is there a second?

DR. SO: So, second.

MS. KALLOR: Any discussion?

MS. BARTOLOMEO: Would we be able to repeat that motion?

CHAIRPERSON LEIDERS: I'm sorry?

MS. BARTOLOMEO: Would you be able to repeat that motion please?

CHAIRPERSON LEIDERS: Yeah. I'll make a motion to table Daniel Currin's application for non-service connected disability retirement.

MS. KALLOR: And is there a second?

DR. SO: Correct.

MS. KALLOR: Any discussion? Okay. All in favor?

CHAIRPERSON LEIDERS: Aye.

DR. SO: So, aye.

DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

MS. KALLOR: Motion passes.

CHAIRPERSON LEIDERS: Dr. Gerstenfeld are you --

DR. GERSTENFELD: Yes, Gerstenfeld, aye.

CHAIRPERSON LEIDERS: Okay, the motion passes.

MS. KALLOR: Motion passes.

CHAIRPERSON LEIDERS: I will make a motion to approve Jacqueline DeMarco's application for non-service connected disability retirement.

MS. KALLOR: Is there a second.

DR. SO: So, second.

MS. KALLOR: All in favor?

CHAIRPERSON LEIDERS: Aye, Leiders.

DR. SO: So, aye;.

DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

MS. KALLOR: Motion passes.

CHAIRPERSON LEIDERS: Okay. I'll make a motion to deny Michael Franceskino's application for service connected disability retirement.

MS. KALLOR: Is there a second?

DR. SO: So, second.

MS. KALLOR: Any discussion? All in favor?

CHAIRPERSON LEIDERS: Leiders, aye.

DR. SO: So, aye.

DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

MS. KALLOR: Motion passes.

CHAIRPERSON LEIDERS: Okay. I'll make a motion to deny service connected disability retirement for Barbara Fritz, however, the board will look favorably upon a non-service retirement.

MS. KALLOR: Is there a second?

DR. SO: So, second.

MS. KALLOR: Any discussion? All in favor?

CHAIRPERSON LEIDERS: Leiders, aye.

DR. SO: So, aye.

DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

MS. KALLOR: Motion passes.

CHAIRPERSON LEIDERS: I make a motion to approve Meghan

Gleason's application for non-service connected disability retirement.

MS. KALLOR: Is there a second?

DR. SO: So, second.

MS. KALLOR: Any discussion? All in favor?

CHAIRPERSON LEIDERS: Aye.

DR. SO: So, aye.

DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

MS. KALLOR: Motion passes.

CHAIRPERSON LEIDERS: I'll make a motion to deny Shanae Lott's application for service connected disability retirement.

MS. KALLOR: Any discussion?

DR. SO: So --

MS. KALLOR: So, sorry. So, second. Now, is there any discussion? All in favor?

CHAIRPERSON LEIDERS: Leiders, aye.

DR. SO: So, aye.

DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

MS. KALLOR: Motion passes.

CHAIRPERSON LEIDERS: I'll make a motion to table Lisa Mas's application for non-service connected disability retirement.

MS. KALLOR: Is there a second?

DR. SO: So, second.

MS. KALLOR: Any discussion? All in favor?

CHAIRPERSON LEIDERS: Leiders, aye.

DR. SO: So, aye.

DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

MS. KALLOR: Motion passes.

CHAIRPERSON LEIDERS: I'll make a motion to approve Steven Midford's application for service connected disability retirement.

MS. KALLOR: Is there a second?

DR. SO: So, second.

MS. KALLOR: Any discussion? All in favor?

CHAIRPERSON LEIDERS: Leiders, aye.

DR. SO: So, aye.

DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

MS. KALLOR: Motion passes.

CHAIRPERSON LEIDERS: I make a motion to approve Ann Modena (audio cut out)

MS. KALLOR: Second?

DR. SO: Dr. So approved -- second.

MS. KALLOR: Any discussion? All in favor?

CHAIRPERSON LEIDERS: Leiders, aye.

DR. SO: So, aye.

DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

MS. KALLOR: Motion passes.

CHAIRPERSON LEIDERS: I'll make a motion to approve Yecenia Nowak's application for service connected is ability retirement.

MS. KALLOR: Is there a second?



DR. SO: So, second.

MS. KALLOR: Any discussion? All in favor?

CHAIRPERSON LEIDERS: Leiders, aye.

DR. SO: So, aye.

DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

MS. KALLOR: Motion passes.

CHAIRPERSON LEIDERS: I make a motion to deny Thomas O'Connor's application for service connected disability retirement, but approved for non-service connected disability retirement.

MS. KALLOR: Is there a second?

DR. SO: So, second.

MS. KALLOR: Any discussion? All in favor?

CHAIRPERSON LEIDERS: Leiders, aye.

DR. SO: So, aye.

DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

MS. KALLOR: Motion passes.

CHAIRPERSON LEIDERS: Next, I make a motion to deny Alexander Perez's application for service connected disability retirement.

MS. KALLOR: Is there a second?

DR. SO: So, second.

MS. KALLOR: Any discussion? All in favor?

CHAIRPERSON LEIDERS: Leiders, aye.

DR. SO: So, aye.

DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

MS. KALLOR: Motion passes.

CHAIRPERSON LEIDERS: I'll make a motion to approve Ronald Reed's application for service connected disability retirement.

MS. KALLOR: Is there a second?

DR. SO: So, second.

MS. KALLOR: Any discussion? All in favor?

CHAIRPERSON LEIDERS: Leiders, aye.

DR. SO: So, aye.

DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

MS. KALLOR: Motion passes.

CHAIRPERSON LEIDERS: I make a motion to deny Emanuel Sbona's application for service connected disability retirement.

MS. KALLOR: Is there a second?

DR. SO: So, second.

MS. KALLOR: Any discussion? All in favor?

CHAIRPERSON LEIDERS: Leiders, aye.

DR. SO: So, aye.

DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

MS. KALLOR: Motion passes.

CHAIRPERSON LEIDERS: I make a motion to table Michael Schork's application for service connected disability retirement.

MS. KALLOR: Is there a second?

DR. SO: So, second.

MS. KALLOR: Any discussion? All in favor?

CHAIRPERSON LEIDERS: Leiders, aye.

DR. SO: So, aye.

DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

MS. KALLOR: Motion passes.

CHAIRPERSON LEIDERS: I make a motion to table Beth Shaw's application for service connected disability retirement.

MS. KALLOR: Is there a second?

DR. SO: So, second.

MS. KALLOR: Any discussion? All in favor?

CHAIRPERSON LEIDERS: Leiders, aye.

DR. SO: So, aye.

DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

MS. KALLOR: Motion passes.

CHAIRPERSON LEIDERS: I make a motion to approve Gary Simpson's application for non-service related disability retirement.

MS. KALLOR: Is there a second?

DR. SO: So, second.

MS. KALLOR: Any discussion? All in favor?

CHAIRPERSON LEIDERS: Leiders, aye.

DR. SO: So, aye.

DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

MS. KALLOR: Motion passes.

CHAIRPERSON LEIDERS: I make a motion to approve Maya Thornton's application for non-service connected disability retirement.

MS. KALLOR: Is there a second?

DR. SO: So, second.

MS. KALLOR: Any discussion? All in favor?

CHAIRPERSON LEIDERS: Aye, Leiders

DR. SO: So, aye.

DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

MS. KALLOR: Motion passes.

CHAIRPERSON LEIDERS: I make a motion to approve Philip Myett's application to change from service to non-service connected disability.

MS. KALLOR: Is there a second?

DR. SO: So, second.

MS. KALLOR: Any discussion? All in favor?

CHAIRPERSON LEIDERS: Leiders, aye.

DR. SO: So, aye.

DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

MS. KALLOR: Motion passes.

CHAIRPERSON LEIDERS: Well? Yeah. I guess we complete this. So, I make a motion to adjourn today's meeting.

DR. SO: So, second.

MS. KALLOR: Any discussion? All in favor.

CHAIRPERSON LEIDERS: Leiders, aye.

DR. SO: So, aye.

DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld aye.

MS. KALLOR: Meeting is adjourned.

CHAIRPERSON LEIDERS: Meeting is adjourned.

MR. ZIMBERLIN: Can I ask one question? Barbara Fritz opted into the non-service connected, so I was wondering if that could be approved today as opposed to looked favorably upon just so she doesn't have to come back here next month.

CHAIRPERSON LEIDERS: I don't think she needs to come back. We'll just -- she'll just make a formal request to change to non-service.

MR. ZIMBERLIN: She's done -- she's done that. Okay. Well, I'll do that. I'll wait for the decision.

MS. KALLOR: Okay, thank you. Meeting is adjourned

CHAIRPERSON LEIDERS: Thank you.

(Meeting adjourned at 12:57 p.m.)

## CERTIFICATE

I certify that this document is a true and accurate description of the proceedings obtained from the recorded meeting of the State of Connecticut State Employees Retirement Commission, Medical Examining Board on September 6, 2024 to the best of my ability.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wendy Malitsky".

Wendy Malitsky