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STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT COMMISSION
MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD

DATE: April 10, 2026

LOCATION: VIA ZOOM

Present:

Frank Gerratana, M.D.

Sohrab Zahedi, M.D.

Sheldon Nova, M.D.

Others present:

Robert Helfand, Retirement Services Division.

Nabil Waheed, Retirement Services Division

Cindy Cieslak, Rose Kallor, LLP

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(Proceedings began at 9:19 a.m.)

DR. GERRATANA: Good morning, everyone. Thank you all for being here. The April 10th, 2026 meeting of the Medical Examining Board is now in session. I'm Dr. Frank Gerratana, the Chairman. Also present are Board members, Dr. Sheldon Nova and Dr. Zorab Zahedi.

Present from the Office of the State Comptroller, Retirement Services Division are staff members from the Retirement Division, Nabil Waheed, Patrick Fairbanks, and Robert Helfand.

The General Counsel for the Retirement Commission and Medical Examining Board is Attorney Cindy Cieslak.

Normally, we would go into Executive Session, but the format today will include a public session of a particular applicant's case, and I'll ask Mr. Helfand to make a few statements concerning that.

ROBERT HELFAND: Yes. So, for the benefit of everyone, the way this meeting is usually conducted, and for the most part will be conducted, is that the doctors will go into Executive Session, meaning they will be meeting out of public view in order to discuss each individual case. And that is done for your protection because they will be discussing confidential medical

1 information that should not be shared with the other
2 applicants or the public at large. Because it's done for
3 the protection of the applicants, applicants do have the
4 option, although it's very unusual, to ask that their
5 application be discussed in public session. And one of
6 today's applicants has made that request. So, before the
7 doctors go into Executive Session, they're going to
8 handle the first case on the agenda, which is Mr.
9 Ahlquist. But before we begin deliberation over Mr.
10 Ahlquist, I would like to ask Mr. Ahlquist a few
11 questions.

12 So, is Mr. Ahlquist and his attorney, are they
13 both present?

14 RUSSELL ZIMBERLIN: I'm present. Kevin's
15 logging in today, and he'll -- usually just the doctors
16 ask questions. This is --

17 ROBERT HELFAND: Yeah, I'm not going to be
18 asking questions now about his medical condition, but I
19 want to confirm on the record his request to conduct this
20 in public session and his understanding that this means
21 that his medical information will be discussed in front
22 of all the applicants who are currently present and the
23 meeting will be recorded so that it will be available as
24 a public record going forward that anyone from the public
25 can access.

1 RUSSELL ZIMBERLIN: He's fully aware of that.
2 Let me give him a call and get him to join. I think he
3 was going to join around 9:30. I didn't know that we
4 were going to start with him and then go to closed
5 session. But he's, he's available. I just talked to
6 him. Just give me two seconds to have him log in.

7 ROBERT HELFAND: Okay, thank you.

8 KEVIN AHLQUIST: Let me just --

9 RUSSELL ZIMBERLIN: We'll see you in here when
10 you get in.

11 KEVIN AHLQUIST: All right, sounds good.

12 Thanks.

13 RUSSELL ZIMBERLIN: Yep. He's trying to log in
14 right now. He's having some computer difficulties, but
15 hopefully it doesn't take too long. But what I can do --
16 oh, we should wait for him.

17 ROBERT HELFAND: Would it be better if we move
18 Mr. Ahlquist back on the agenda?

19 RUSSELL ZIMBERLIN: Yeah, he's not great with
20 technology. He is logging in and he said he's going to
21 try a different device.

22 CINDY CIESLAK: I think he's here. Hold on. I
23 think he's here.

24 RUSSELL ZIMBERLIN: Oh, he's here? Perfect.

25 CINDY CIESLAK: I have an iPhone coming in, so

1 I want to see if it's him. The person who just came in
2 at iPhone -- this is Cindy Cieslak, is this Mr. Ahlquist?
3 You are muted, so I'm going to ask you to unmute. I'm
4 going to click a button. A prompt should come up. There
5 we go. Is this Mr. Ahlquist?

6 KEVIN AHLQUIST: I was having trouble with my
7 iPad.

8 CINDY CIESLAK: No worries. Is this Kevin
9 Ahlquist?

10 KEVIN AHLQUIST: It is.

11 CINDY CIESLAK: Thank you. All right, we're
12 going to proceed. Mr. Helfand?

13 ROBERT HELFAND: Mr. Ahlquist and Mr.
14 Zimmerman, Mr. Ahlquist has asked that his application be
15 considered in public session rather than Executive
16 Session, and so I'm asking whether -- I just like to make
17 it clear if we conduct this meeting in public session,
18 there will be a discussion of Mr. Ahlquist's confidential
19 medical information, including the records that he has
20 submitted, and that discussion will be audible and
21 visible for everyone currently attending this meeting.

22 Also, the meeting will be recorded, or that
23 portion of the meeting will be recorded, and it will
24 become a permanent record so that in the future, anyone
25 who's interested could still look through the record and

1 have access to Mr. Ahlquist's confidential medical
2 information and medical records, such as they're
3 discussed today.

4 So, before we proceed, I want to confirm again
5 that Mr. Ahlquist understands those aspects of what is
6 requested and still wants us to proceed in public
7 session.

8 KEVIN AHLQUIST: Yes.

9 ROBERT HELFAND: Okay, then I will turn it over
10 to you.

11 RUSSELL ZIMBERLIN: Oh, good morning. Well,
12 Russell Zimmerlin for Kevin Ahlquist on a claim for
13 service connected disability retirement.

14 Kevin's occupation with the State of
15 Connecticut was as a Motor Vehicle Inspector with the
16 DMV. A DMV Inspector is required to have the ability to
17 complete restraints and carry a firearm. Inspectors also
18 need to have the ability to bend and twist in awkward
19 positions while inspecting tractor trailers.

20 Prior to being hired, Kevin successfully passed
21 the physical exam required of all DMV Inspectors. The
22 May 12th, 2023 Board denied Kevin's application and found
23 that the Applicant had a pre-existing cervical and lumbar
24 degenerative joint disease which preceded his 2007 work-
25 related injury and which was likely exacerbated by his

1 2021 work injury.

2 In September of 2007, Kevin was treated
3 following a workplace injury. Kevin's cervical spine
4 injury was minimal and the cervical pain stopped within
5 months. Dr. Becker's 2007 notes state "pain is now an 8
6 on a scale of 0 to 10 and is more so in his lower back
7 than in his neck."

8 Kevin discontinued neck treatment other than a
9 spasm in April of 2008. In February of 2008, Dr. Becker
10 stated, "He continues to have pain in his back largely in
11 the mid lumbar region and to a lesser degree in his lower
12 lumbar region."

13 Doctor Memon's May 2008 and May 2009 treatment
14 notes only discussed Kevin's lumbar spine.

15 Dr. Becker's 2010 through 2014 medical notes do
16 not reference cervical pain. Kevin did not receive a
17 cervical spine rating as his pain and treatment in the
18 cervical area stopped.

19 Following the 2021 motor vehicle accident
20 Kevin's cervical treatment was significant. Dr.
21 Makanji's October 2022 opinion letter described Kevin's
22 motor vehicle injury as being a whiplash type injury
23 impacting his neck.

24 In November of 2025, Dr. Makanji described
25 Kevin's cervical pain as chronic, and a September 2025

1 MRI showed multi-level cervical spondylosis and loss of
2 disc height.

3 The February 2021 medical note from Dr. Makanji
4 described Kevin as having significant neck spasm and
5 pain. Dr. Makanji rated Kevin's cervical spine at 10%.

6 Kevin had no prior workers' comp rating for his
7 cervical spine. That limitation alone precludes work as
8 an Inspector with the DMV as Kevin could not be relied
9 upon to complete a restraint.

10 On November 5th, 2024, Dr. Coe (phonetic)
11 stated that Kevin was light duty following his 2021
12 injury and prior he possessed a full-duty work capacity.
13 Kevin's time reporting code showed that he did not take a
14 day off of work from the DMV for treatment for his 2007
15 injury. Kevin also was granted Social Security
16 Disability and the Disability Judge found that Kevin
17 first became disabled as of the 2021 motor vehicle
18 accident.

19 Our office also submitted the time reporting
20 codes which show Kevin worked full time with occasional
21 overtime from 2014 all the way through the 2021 work
22 injury.

23 There was a gap of medical treatment for
24 Kevin's lumbar and cervical spine for seven years leading
25 up to the 2021 motor vehicle accident.

1 Kevin was a Police Officer with the City of
2 Hartford from '94 through 2014, and Kevin is receiving a
3 vested non-disability retirement from the City. Kevin
4 applied for the Motor Vehicle Inspector occupation with
5 the DMV in August of 2014. Kevin would not have pursued
6 a more physically demanding job if he was experiencing
7 pain.

8 If there's any questions, please feel free to
9 ask myself or Kevin.

10 DR. GERRATANA: This is Dr. Gerratana. Mr.
11 Ahlquist, do you have a statement to make as well?

12 KEVIN AHLQUIST: No, I don't.

13 DR. GERRATANA: In support of your application?

14 KEVIN AHLQUIST: No, I don't, sir.

15 DR. GERRATANA: Okay. All of the Board members
16 have, you know, reviewed your entire application file,
17 and may have some questions for you now.

18 I do have one, though. You had the position
19 of, you know, a motor vehicle inspector. And, you know,
20 we've read, you know, your job description. You also
21 worked in the past as a police officer. Tell me about
22 the tasks and duties of a motor vehicle inspector as they
23 differ from a police officer, because it appears that the
24 job description, you know, talked, you know, more about
25 sort of investigating rather than enforcing. So tell us

1 about the tasks of a motor vehicle inspector.

2 KEVIN AHLQUIST: Sure. So as a motor vehicle
3 inspector, I worked with the Commercial Motor Vehicle
4 Division within DMV responsible for motor vehicle
5 violations as well as commercial vehicle violations.

6 So with respect to the commercial vehicles, we
7 were tasked with inspecting trucks all the way from small
8 trucks up to 18-wheelers. You're climbing up on the
9 trucks, you're crawling underneath the trucks, you're
10 bending down quite a bit, twisting and, you know,
11 manipulating your body in all different kinds of ways to
12 do these inspections.

13 DR. GERRATANA: Okay, thank you. And Attorney
14 Zimmerman mentioned when you were with the, I guess,
15 Hartford Police Department, you did have an injury back
16 in 2007 when you're involved with an altercation. Tell
17 us about that injury.

18 KEVIN AHLQUIST: Sure. So, like you said, we
19 were taking somebody into custody who was fighting with
20 us. I fell backwards during that altercation, injuring
21 my back, and I sought treatment after that.

22 I had neck pain probably for two weeks to a
23 month. But the, you know, the injury was more to the
24 lower back where I received treatment for that. I was
25 full duty. I didn't have any restrictions. I didn't

1 miss any time from work as a result of that injury. I
2 just sought treatment after the injury off duty time or
3 while I was working. And my last physical treatment for
4 that injury was in early 2012.

5 From 2012 to 2014, it was just pretty much
6 follow up appointments with Dr. Becker, and after that,
7 you know, after 2014, I just, I was fine. I didn't have
8 any restrictions. I was able to live my life, do
9 whatever I wanted with, like I said, without
10 restrictions, strenuous activity and so forth, right up
11 until the accident in 2021.

12 DR. GERRATANA: And my last question. You just
13 mentioned Dr. Becker. At the time of your retirement
14 from the, I guess, the Hartford Police Department, Dr.
15 Becker mentioned that you'd be retiring in his notes. He
16 also seemed happy that you were going into a job that was
17 less hazardous or less demanding. Did you feel that the
18 job as a motor vehicle inspector was sort of less
19 demanding than a police officer?

20 KEVIN AHLQUIST: I mean, I wouldn't be chasing
21 down criminals, so to speak. I mean, the invest -- you
22 know, doing the inspections on the trucks, I mean,
23 that's, you know, physical. Like I said, you're --
24 you're rolling around underneath trucks. You're crawling
25 under trucks. But, you know, I didn't -- I didn't have

1 any problem doing any of that.

2 DR. GERRATANA: Okay, thank you. Dr. Nova, do
3 you have any more -- any questions for the applicant?

4 DR. NOVA: No.

5 DR. GERRATANA: And Dr. Zahedi, do you have any
6 questions?

7 DR. ZAHEDI: I do, Dr. Gerratana. This is for
8 Attorney Zimmerman. Did I hear you correctly, Attorney,
9 that you said the job entailed restraints and a firearm?

10 RUSSELL ZIMMERLIN: Yes, DMV inspectors are
11 pretty much police officers that are also specialized in
12 inspecting trucks. He carried a gun, he was able to make
13 arrests. He was able to stop people. He was able to
14 arrest people. And, Kevin, please correct me if I'm
15 wrong.

16 KEVIN AHLQUIST: No, that's correct. I mean,
17 we didn't -- we didn't necessarily investigate criminal
18 complaints, but if we had a drunk driver, we were -- we
19 would enforce the motor vehicle violations on that. So
20 we would take people into custody if we came across a
21 drunk driver. They can certainly fight with us and
22 resist. You know, we're -- we're still allowed to take
23 somebody into custody, but then the state police would
24 come and take over the investigation for criminal
25 complaints. But we were certainly out there in harm's

1 way and driving a police car and carrying a gun belt and
2 handcuffs and everything else.

3 DR. ZAHEDI: I mean, in that sense, would you
4 not agree that the duties are pretty similar to a
5 Hartford police officer, correct?

6 KEVIN AHLQUIST: Yes, but then -- but we're
7 more proactive versus reactive as a DMV inspector.

8 DR. ZAHEDI: All right, thank you. I
9 appreciate that.

10 DR. GERRATANA: And actually, I'll close with
11 one last question. Attorney Zimmerman mentioned that you
12 retired from the Hartford Police Department, so you're
13 receiving retirement benefits from the police department
14 currently?

15 KEVIN AHLQUIST: Yes.

16 DR. GERRATANA: And then you also were approved
17 for Social Security Disability benefits, so you're, in
18 addition, receiving Social Security benefits?

19 KEVIN AHLQUIST: Yes.

20 DR. GERRATANA: Okay.

21 KEVIN AHLQUIST: And as far as the Hartford
22 Police Department, it's just a pension, no medical
23 benefits.

24 DR. GERRATANA: Okay, good. Thank you very
25 much. It's always helpful when the applicants come in

1 person and are able to answer some questions.

2 KEVIN AHLQUIST: Yes, sir.

3 DR. GERRATANA: So we'll proceed with our
4 discussion and I'll begin by just presenting some
5 information about the case as a way of reviewing things
6 to start our discussion. And I will repeat some of the
7 things that Attorney Zimmerlin said with regards to the
8 timeline of events. There's nothing wrong in hearing
9 some of these things twice.

10 So, in November 22nd to review, the Medical
11 Examining Board first denied Mr. Ahlquist's application
12 for a service connected disability because of their
13 having insufficient evidence. On reconsideration, the
14 Medical Examining Board in May of 2023 voted to deny a
15 service connected disability retirement because of pre-
16 existing cervical and lumbar degenerative disc disease.

17 Subsequently, the State Employees Retirement
18 Commission remanded the matter back to the Medical
19 Examining Board which gets us here today.

20 Now, in advance of this meeting, a complete
21 digital file of his application records were made
22 available to review. The file included his job
23 description and cover sheet, our 2022 and '23 Board
24 decisions. There were PDF files of medical information
25 that were labeled January, April and May of 2023, August

1 and October and November 2022 and several files from
2 December of 2015.

3 Now, Mr. Ahlquist is a 57 year old Motor
4 Vehicle Inspector for DMV who retired in July of 2022
5 with seven years and seven months of State service. He's
6 again requesting a service connected disability
7 retirement.

8 There was an Application and Medical Report
9 from Dr. Makanji that indicated his complaints of back
10 pain, decreased range of motion and difficulty sitting or
11 standing. A precipitating event was named as a work
12 related rear end motor vehicle accident in February 2021.

13 With regards to the timeline that we'll be
14 discussing, it includes this 2021 DMV related work
15 injury. Any conditions or impairment that were present
16 before 2021 will be noted as being prior to or
17 preexisting.

18 His diagnosis according to Dr. Makanji was
19 listed as severe lumbar degenerative disc disease with
20 facet arthropathy. His treatment included physical
21 therapy, epidural injections, pain management and
22 prescriptions of Robaxin, Tylenol and Motrin. And in
23 that application his progress was listed as guarded.

24 The Medical Examining Board in November 2022
25 first denied his application for a service connected

1 retirement due to insufficient evidence that the
2 Applicant was unable to perform the duties of his job
3 description or if he was disabled that the condition was
4 work related.

5 The Medical Examining Board later in May 2023
6 reviewed his medical information, and agreed he was
7 capable of light, sedentary work but would not be able to
8 return to his prior employment as a Police Officer.

9 The Medical Examining Board agreed that the
10 Applicant had preexisting cervical and lumbar
11 degenerative disc disease which predated his 2007 injury
12 from his prior employer that was with the Hartford Police
13 Department and that condition was likely exacerbated by
14 the DMV motor vehicle accident in 2021. Thus the motor
15 vehicle -- thus the Medical Examining Board voted to deny
16 his application for a service connected disability
17 because of the preexisting issues.

18 Now, concerning today's reconsideration, there
19 was a First Report of Injury document that indicated his
20 neck and back injuries on I-95 in February '21; his motor
21 vehicle was slowing down in traffic when rear ended. He
22 was seatbelt restrained and the airbags did not deploy.
23 He did not hit his head inside the vehicle and he exited
24 the vehicle to check on the other motorist.

25 Following the accident he was treated at the

1 Bridgeport Hospital Emergency Room and they reported his
2 complaints of neck and low back pain. He had tenderness
3 of the left cervical paraspinal muscles with a full range
4 of motion and no pain with axial load testing. He had a
5 full range of motion of his extremities with no weakness
6 and negative straight leg raising signs. He was
7 diagnosed with a cervical strain and low back pain
8 without sciatica and was prescribed Tylenol, Motrin and
9 Valium that he already had at home.

10 Even in August of 2021, six months after the
11 accident, Dr. Memon noted his complaints of neck and low
12 back pain. A cervical spine MRI scan after the accident
13 revealed loss of lordosis, degenerative disc disease and
14 narrowing at C5-6 and foraminal narrowing at C6-7.

15 A lumbar spine MRI that was done in 2007
16 revealed degenerative disc disease and facet arthropathy
17 from L4 to S1. Now, those are findings of significant
18 structural degenerative problems that predated his motor
19 vehicle accidents.

20 Dr. Memon's impression was mechanical neck
21 pain, facet mediated and mechanical low back pain with
22 degenerative disc disease and facet arthrosis which was
23 likely an aggravation of his 2007 lumbar degenerative
24 disc disease. Dr. Memon emphasized that he had prior
25 lumbar spine injuries for which he was given a 15%

1 permanent partial disability and that needs to be taken
2 into consideration when evaluating any impairment from
3 this recent DMV motor vehicle accident. He was treated
4 with a lumbar spine epidural injection without much
5 improvement.

6 Now, it's important to note that he has a
7 significant past history of neck and back problems. In
8 2002 he had back problems treated by Dr. Raycroft and
9 eventually had a lumbar epidural injection in 2004.

10 In 2007, Dr. Becker noted his neck and back
11 pain after an altercation in September 2007 which was an
12 aggravation of his degenerative disc disease. Even then,
13 in 2007 his lumbar spine MRI scan revealed degenerative
14 changes at L2-3 and L5-S1. A cervical spine X-ray
15 revealed loss of lordosis and mild degenerative changes
16 at several disc levels. Dr. Memon performed lumbar facet
17 blocks and lumbar medial branch blocks for pain relief.

18 In 2012 Dr. Becker noted him as having a 15%
19 permanent partial disability of the lumbar spine from an
20 aggravation of his degenerative disc disease at L5-S1.
21 He noted that with time he even might need lumbar
22 decompression surgery or lumbar fusion indicating that
23 his lumbar spine degenerative condition was likely to
24 deteriorate.

25 Going on, in 2014, before joining the

1 Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles he had ongoing
2 back pain from his lumbar degenerative disc disease and
3 it was recommended by Dr. Becker that he take hydrocodone
4 for pain relief and Baclofen as a muscle relaxant.

5 Now, concerning the most recent 2021 motor
6 vehicle accident while he was employed by the DMV as an
7 Inspector, Dr. Selden in March 2022 agreed with the
8 diagnosis of cervical lumbar strain superimposed on
9 preexisting cervical and lumbar spondylosis.

10 Dr. Makanji rated him with a 17% PPD of the
11 lumbar spine for exacerbation of his multilevel
12 degenerative disc disease which included a prior rating
13 of his back area. The Workers' Compensation Commission
14 in the voluntary agreement confirmed that he had a 15%
15 permanent partial disability of the lumbar spine before
16 his 2021 accident. He was rated as having only an
17 additional 3.5% disability due to his work related DMV
18 accident. It was also noted that he had 10% PPD of the
19 cervical spine because of an exacerbation of his
20 preexisting degenerative disc disease.

21 In 2023 he had ongoing treatment at the
22 Hartford Hospital Pain Treatment Center that included
23 cervical and lumbar facet injections.

24 In 2024, he had a lumbar epidural injection and
25 bilateral cervical facet injections. And then in 2025,

1 he continued with facet joint and epidural injections by
2 Dr. Memon.

3 He had a functional capacity exam performed in
4 2020 that indicated he could perform up to a sedentary
5 demand level of work. At that time, he was experiencing
6 some neck and back pain with prolonged standing or
7 sitting. And as we heard, he was also granted a Social
8 Security Administration disability benefit.

9 So that's an introduction and leading us into
10 our purpose this morning, which is to reconsider the
11 action of the Medical Examining Board, and their last
12 action was three years ago.

13 You know, I just presented information
14 concerning his request, and based on the facts of this
15 case, I think that our decision making will be
16 straightforward.

17 First, concerning his work capacity, Mr.
18 Ahlquist retired in July of 2022, as a Motor Vehicle
19 Inspector. There was a functional capacity exam that
20 determined he could only perform up to a sedentary demand
21 level and his treating physicians agreed with that.

22 Thus, his impairment at retirement prevented
23 him from continuing to render the service in which he had
24 been employed, and supporting that determination is also
25 the Social Security Administration granting him

1 disability benefits, so, he appears not to be able to
2 perform the job that he was doing with the State.

3 However, his ongoing permanent disability is
4 substantially due to a significant underlying preexisting
5 condition. You know, thus, his retirement is not service
6 connected.

7 First, let's look at his disability ratings
8 according to the Workers' Compensation Commission. Even
9 before 2021, before his DMV accident, he had had many
10 back injuries and significant treatment, and that all
11 resulted in him having a 15% permanent disability of the
12 lumbar spine, primarily due to his lumbar degenerative
13 disc disease.

14 In his Workers' Compensation Voluntary
15 Agreement, he was awarded only an additional 3.5%
16 disability due to the consequences of his 2021 DMV
17 accident. Thus, his total disability at retirement was
18 mostly due to the disability that had been assigned to
19 him before that 15%.

20 Now, secondly, before the 2021 motor vehicle
21 accident, he was treated for degenerative disc disease
22 and spinal degeneration. That's also referred to as
23 facet arthropathy and spondylosis. But after the motor
24 vehicle accident, he was still treated for the same
25 multilevel degenerative disc disease. So both before and

1 after the motor vehicle accident, his diagnoses were
2 essentially the same. And the treatment with epidural
3 and facet joint injections was essentially the same.

4 He sustained no significantly different types
5 of injuries in that motor vehicle accident, meaning there
6 were no spinal fractures, no extremity injuries and no
7 other organ damage resulting in any new types of
8 disabling conditions.

9 And lastly, his preexisting lumbar and cervical
10 degenerative disc disease was severe based on the MRI
11 images -- this is all before the accident -- and
12 warranted significant treatment with spinal injections.
13 That preexisting condition was expected to progress with
14 attritional changes or because of being more easily
15 injured.

16 Dr. Becker stated that because of his
17 underlying degenerative conditions, he might even need
18 surgical treatment with decompression or fusion.

19 Now, it's important to note that sometimes
20 these preexisting spinal problems and degeneration can be
21 mild and just incidental to any substantive work
22 injuries. However, in this case, his preexisting
23 condition was meaningful and a significant component of
24 his permanent disability at retirement.

25 Thus, his service connection is not found in

1 keeping with Medical Examining Board policies and past
2 practice. So, therefore, I recommend that his request
3 for a service connected disability retirement again be
4 denied. And now I'll open the discussion to other
5 members of the Board to hear if they agree or not.

6 So, Dr. Sheldon -- would you make a comment?

7 DR. NOVA: Dr. Nova, I agree with the
8 (inaudible).

9 DR. GERRATANA: Okay, thank you. And Dr.
10 Zahedi?

11 DR. ZAHEDI: I echo Dr. Sheldon's opinion. Did
12 you hear me?

13 DR. GERRATANA: Say that again, please?

14 DR. ZAHEDI: I said I echo Dr. Sheldon.

15 DR. GERRATANA: Thank you.

16 So the plan will now be for us to go into
17 Executive Session to discuss the other applicants. So,
18 I'll accept a motion to go into Executive Session for
19 purposes of discussing individual member's disability
20 health issues. And I'll request that the members of the
21 Retirement Service Division and Counsel will all be
22 allowed to remain. Is there a second?

23 DR. NOVA: Dr. Nova, second.

24 DR. GERRATANA: All those in favor say aye.

25 DR. ZAHEDI: Aye.

1 DR. NOVA: Aye.

2 DR. GERRATANA: The motion passes, and we'll
3 move into Executive Session.

4 CINDY CIESLAK: Good morning again, this is
5 Cindy Cieslak. What that means is the remainder of the
6 applicants are going to be discussed in private because
7 the medical information is confidential. We will be
8 placing you in the waiting room. If you are on
9 reconsideration, you will be invited in to make a
10 statement, so stay on your computers and your phones, and
11 when we're ready for you, we'll let you in.

12 If you are not on reconsideration, if you wait
13 in the waiting room, when we reenter public session,
14 you'll be able to hear the decisions today. This process
15 can sometimes take a couple of hours, so if you are in
16 the waiting room for a what feels like a long period of
17 time, please just be patient with us.

18 So at this time, I'm going to place everyone in
19 the waiting room. Thank you.

20
21 (Executive Session from (9:58 a.m. to 1:31 p.m.

22
23 DR. GERRATANA: This is Dr. Gerratana, the
24 meeting Chairman. The Board will be making
25 determinations and voting on those determinations, but

1 would like to remind members that only the final vote
2 will be given today and not the reasons for the vote.

3 In some instances, there may not have been
4 enough medical information to make a determination or
5 perhaps a non service connected disability is more likely
6 a service connected disability.

7 You may seek reconsideration of an initial
8 denial. You will receive the Board's written
9 determination within two to four weeks, which will
10 provide you with that additional information.

11 That being said, the Board members will now
12 vote on today's applications.

13 Concerning Amanda Beane, I move that we accept
14 her request for a non service connected disability
15 retirement. Is there a second?

16 DR. ZAHEDI: Second.

17 DR. GERRATANA: All those in favor say aye.

18 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, aye.

19 DR. GERRATANA: All those opposed say nay. The
20 motion passes.

21 Concerning Sandra Correa-Mena, I make a motion
22 that her request for a service connected disability
23 retirement be approved. Is there a second?

24 DR. ZAHEDI: Second.

25 DR. GERRATANA: All those in favor say aye.

1 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, aye.

2 DR. GERRATANA: Opposed, nay. The motion
3 passes.

4 Concerning Krystyna Dzierlatka, I make a motion
5 that her request for a service connected disability
6 retirement be approved. Is there a second?

7 DR. ZAHEDI: Second.

8 DR. NOVA: All those in favor say aye.

9 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, aye.

10 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. Those opposed
11 say nay. The motion passes.

12 Concerning C. Lamar Fairley, I make a motion
13 that his request for a service connected disability
14 retirement be approved. Is there a second?

15 DR. ZAHEDI: Second.

16 DR. GERRATANA: All those in favor say aye.

17 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, aye.

18 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. The motion
19 passes.

20 Concerning Alessandro Ferrari, I make a motion
21 that the service connected retirement application be
22 approved. Is there a second?

23 DR. ZAHEDI: Second.

24 DR. GERRATANA: All those in favor?

25 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, aye.

1 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. All those
2 opposed say nay. The motion passes.

3 Concerning Gabriel Garcia's application for a
4 service connected disability retirement, I move that it
5 be tabled. Is there a second?

6 DR. ZAHEDI: Second.

7 DR. GERRATANA: All those in favor say aye.

8 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, aye.

9 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. All those
10 opposed say nay. The motion passes.

11 Concerning Caren Graves' application for a non
12 service connected disability retirement, I move that it
13 be denied. Is there a second?

14 DR. ZAHEDI: Second.

15 DR. GERRATANA: All in favor say aye.

16 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, aye.

17 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. All those
18 opposed say nay. The motion passes.

19 Concerning Yaurimar Guaramato's application for
20 a service connected disability retirement, I move that it
21 be tabled. Is there a second?

22 DR. ZAHEDI: Second.

23 DR. GERRATANA: All those in favor say aye.

24 DR. NOVA: Nova, aye.

25 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, aye.

1 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. All those
2 opposed say nay. The motion passes.

3 Concerning Willis McCaw, I make a motion that
4 his request for a service connected disability retirement
5 be approved. Is there a second?

6 DR. ZAHEDI: Second.

7 DR. GERRATANA: All those in favor say aye.

8 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, aye.

9 DR. GERRATANA: All those opposed say nay. The
10 motion passes. And again, I voted yes on that motion.

11 Concerning Scott McKenna, I move that his
12 request for a non service connected disability retirement
13 be approved. Is there a second?

14 DR. ZAHEDI: Second.

15 DR. GERRATANA: All those in favor say aye.

16 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, aye.

17 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. All those
18 opposed say nay. The motion passes.

19 Concerning Wayne Pencz. I make a motion that
20 his request for a non service connected disability
21 retirement be denied. Is there a second?

22 DR. ZAHEDI: Second.

23 DR. GERRATANA: All those in favor say aye.

24 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, aye.

25 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. All those

1 opposed say nay. The motion passes.

2 Concerning Emil Serrano, I make a motion that
3 his application for a service connected disability
4 retirement be approved. Is there a second?

5 DR. ZAHEDI: Second.

6 DR. GERRATANA: All those in favor say aye.

7 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, aye.

8 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. All those
9 opposed say nay. The motion passes.

10 Concerning Timothy Uliano, I make a motion that
11 his request for a service connected disability
12 requirement be denied. Is there a second?

13 DR. ZAHEDI: Second.

14 DR. GERRATANA: All those in favor say aye.

15 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, aye.

16 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. All those
17 opposed say nay. The motion passes.

18 Concerning Enid Valley, I make a motion that
19 the request for a service connected disability retirement
20 be denied. Is there a second?

21 DR. ZAHEDI: Second.

22 DR. GERRATANA: All those in favor say aye.

23 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, aye.

24 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. All those
25 opposed say nay. The motion passes.

1 Concerning Antoinette Washington, I make a
2 motion that her non service connected application for
3 retirement to be denied. Is there a second?

4 DR. ZAHEDI: Second.

5 DR. GERRATANA: All those in favor say aye.

6 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, aye.

7 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. All those
8 opposed say nay. The motion passes.

9 Concerning Robert Whiteside, I make a motion
10 that his request for a service connected disability
11 retirement be approved. Is there a second?

12 DR. ZAHEDI: Second.

13 DR. GERRATANA: All those in favor say aye.

14 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, aye.

15 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. All those
16 opposed say nay. The motion passes.

17 Concerning Sophie Whyte, I make a motion that
18 her request for a non service connected disability
19 retirement be denied. Is there a second?

20 DR. ZAHEDI: Second.

21 DR. GERRATANA: All those in favor say aye.

22 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, aye.

23 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. All those
24 opposed say nay. The motion passes.

25 Concerning Kevin Ahlquist, I make a motion that

1 the request for a service connected disability retirement
2 be denied. Is there a second?

3 DR. ZAHEDI: Second.

4 DR. GERRATANA: All those in favor say aye.

5 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, aye.

6 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. All those
7 opposed say nay. The motion passes.

8 Concerning Patrick Eye, I make a motion that
9 his continued entitlement be approved. Is there a
10 second?

11 DR. ZAHEDI: Second.

12 DR. GERRATANA: All those in favor say aye.

13 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, aye.

14 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. All those
15 opposed say nay. The motion passes.

16 Concerning Jose Fuentes, I make a motion that
17 his continued entitlement be approved. Is there a
18 second?

19 DR. ZAHEDI: Second.

20 DR. GERRATANA: All those in favor say aye.

21 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, aye.

22 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. All those
23 opposed say nay. The motion passes.

24 Concerning Shontel Harris, I make a motion that
25 her request for continued entitlement be tabled. Is

1 there a second?

2 DR. ZAHEDI: Second.

3 DR. GERRATANA: All those in favor say aye.

4 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, aye.

5 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. All those
6 opposed say nay. The motion passes.

7 Concerning Timothy Johnson, I make a motion
8 that his request for continuing entitlement be approved.
9 Is there a second?

10 DR. ZAHEDI: Second.

11 DR. GERRATANA: All those in favor say aye.

12 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, aye.

13 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. All those
14 opposed say nay. The motion passes.

15 Concerning Thomas Quinlan, I make a motion that
16 his request for continued entitlement to be approved.
17 And is there a second?

18 DR. ZAHEDI: Second.

19 DR. GERRATANA: All those in favor say aye.

20 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, aye.

21 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. All those
22 opposed say nay. The motion passes.

23 Concerning continued entitlement based on
24 Social Security determinations, I move that the request
25 for Mariusz Maloid be approved. Is there a second?

1 DR. ZAHEDI: Second.

2 DR. GERRATANA: All those in favor say aye.

3 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, aye.

4 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. All those
5 opposed say nay. The motion passes.

6 And concerning Julie Smith, I make a motion
7 that the request for continual entitlement based on
8 Social Security determination be approved. Is there
9 second?

10 DR. ZAHEDI: Second.

11 DR. GERRATANA: All those in favor say aye.

12 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, aye.

13 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. All those
14 opposed say nay. The motion passes.

15 Now that completes our voting activities today.
16 I'll accept a motion to adjourn.

17 DR. ZAHEDI: Second.

18 DR. GERRATANA: All those in favor say aye.

19 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, aye.

20 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye. The motion
21 passes, so the meeting is adjourned. Thank you all very
22 much for your participation.

23

24 (Meeting adjourned at 1:42 p.m.)

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

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I, Wendy Malitsky, do hereby certify that the foregoing is, to the best of my skill and ability, a true and accurate transcript of the State Employees' Retirement Commission, Medical Examining Board held on

Wendy Malitsky

Wendy Malitsky, Notary Public

My Commission Expires March 31, 2030

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