

**HOWARD COUNTY POLICE AND FIRE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT PLAN
HOWARD COUNTY RETIREMENT PLAN**

**JOINT MEETING OF THE RETIREMENT PLAN COMMITTEES
July 20, 2022**

A joint meeting of the Retirement Plan Committees for the Howard County Police and Fire Employees' Retirement Plan (the "Police and Fire Plan") and the Howard County Retirement Plan (the "Employees Plan") (jointly, the "Plans") was held on Wednesday, July 20, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. in person and via WebEx conference.

Police and Fire Plan:

Members Present:

Human Resources Administrator: Anju Bennett
Chief Administrative Officer: Lonnie Robbins
Director of Finance: Rafiu Ighile
Representative, Police Department Supervisory Employees:
Jason Luckenbaugh (non-voting Member in Fiscal Year 2023)
Representative, Howard County Police Officers' Association, Lodge 21:
Nicolas Holocker

Members Absent

Budget Administrator: Holly Sun
Representative, Fire and Rescue Supervisory Employees: Vince Baker
(voting Member in Fiscal Year 2023)
Representative, International Association of Firefighters, Local 2000:
Richard Ruehl

Employees Plan:

Members Present:

Human Resources Administrator: Anju Bennett
Chief Administrative Officer Designee: John Peterson
Budget Administrator Designee: Angela Cabellon
Employee Representative: Jeff Bronow
Representative, American Federation of State, County and Municipal
Employees Local 3085: Dale R. Chase
Representative, American Federation of State, County and Municipal
Employees Local 3080: Nika Willis

Member Absent

Deputy Director of Finance: Angela Price

Also present for all or a portion of the meeting were:

Scott Southern, Retirement Coordinator
Karen Gerald, Assistant Retirement Coordinator
Sima Taghavi, Department of Finance
Margaret Belmondo, NEPC, Investment Consultant
Kevin Leonard, NEPC, Investment Consultant
Francesca LoVerde, NEPC, Investment Consultant
Jamar Herry, Office of Law
Paul W. Madden, Whiteford, Taylor & Preston L.L.P.

Anju Bennett acted as Chair of the meeting and Paul Madden acted as secretary.

Ms. Bennett noted that Jason Luckenbaugh holds Richard Ruehl's proxy. Chair Bennett reminded the members that there will be no August meeting, no November meeting, and the date for the December 2022 meeting is changed to December 14. Ms. Bennett asked for a vote on the minutes.

The minutes of the June 23, 2022 meeting were approved by the members of each Committee.

Kevin Leonard, NEPC Partner, presented the June 2022 Preliminary Performance Report. The total fund lost 4.0% for the month. The fiscal year return is -7.1% The market value of the fund as of March 31, 2022 was \$1.32 billion.

Larysa Bemko and Chris Huckle made a presentation on behalf of Baillie Gifford. Baillie Gifford is the Master Trust's international developed markets growth manager. The market value of the portfolio is approximately \$60 million. The Master Trust has been investing in this portfolio since May 2018.

Over the past year, Baillie Gifford has significantly underperformed the index. The 12-month trailing return is -34.71% as compared with the benchmark performance of -17.33%.

Mr. Huckle noted that the Baillie Gifford's process is the same process they have used for the past 30 years. He also noted that the EAFE growth index's return for the past year was -24%. The portfolio had no exposure to energy or real estate, the sectors

that performed relatively well over the past year. NEPC is not recommending a change at this time.

Kevin Leonard, NEPC partner, discussed a change to the private equity pacing plan. In April 2022, NEPC recommended that the Master Trust commit \$45 million to private equity strategies over the next 12 months. Because of the year-to-date losses in public markets, the private market allocation is now approximately 16% of the total portfolio. To avoid over allocating to private markets, NEPC now recommends reducing the 2022 commitment to \$40 million.

NEPC also recommends that the Master Trust commit \$10 million to StepStone Global Partners XI and \$5 million to StepStone Diversity II.

At 10:20 a.m., a motion was made by Anju Bennett and seconded by John Peterson to close the meeting pursuant to General Provisions Article § 3-305(b) to consider the investment of public funds and to comply with a specific constitutional, statutory or judicially imposed requirement that prevents disclosures about a particular matter or proceeding. Anju Bennett, John Peterson, Angela Cabellon, Jeff Bronow, Dale Chase and Nika Willis voted in favor of the motion. Angela Price was absent; there were no negative votes or abstentions.

At 10:20 a.m., a motion was made by Nicolas Holocker and seconded by Jason Luckenbaugh to close the meeting pursuant to General Provisions Article § 3-305(b) to consider the investment of public funds and to comply with a specific constitutional, statutory or judicially imposed requirement that prevents public disclosures about a particular matter or proceeding. Anju Bennett, Lonnie Robbins, Rafiu Ighile, Jason Luckenbaugh and Cole Holocker voted in favor of the motion. Vincent Baker, Holly Sun and Richard Ruehl were absent; there were no negative votes or abstentions.

Margaret Belmondo, Kevin Leonard, Francesca LoVerde, Jamar Herry, Paul Madden, Scott Southern, Karen Gerald and Sima Taghavi also participated in the closed session. During the closed session, John Wuestling, Managing Director and John Avirett, Partner made a presentation on behalf of StepStone and the Committees discussed a potential commitment of \$10 million to StepStone Global Partners XI and a potential commitment of \$5 million to StepStone Diversity II

When the meeting reopened at 11:15 a.m., the Joint Committee adopted the following resolution:

Resolved: that the Joint Committees accept the recommendations of NEPC to commit \$10 million to StepStone Global Partners XI and \$5 million to StepStone Diversity II, subject to the completion of legal due diligence and the negotiation of acceptable subscription documents.

At this point, the meeting of the Employees Plan Committee adjourned.

At 11:20 a.m., a motion was made by Rafiu Ighile and seconded by Jason Luckenbaugh to close the meeting pursuant to General Provisions Article § 3-305(b) to discuss a personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals. Anju Bennett, Lonnie Robbins, Rafiu Ighile, Jason Luckenbaugh, and Cole Holocker, voted in favor of the motion. Vincent Baker, Holly Sun and Richard Ruehl were absent; there were no negative votes or abstentions.

Jamar Herry, Paul Madden, Scott Southern, Karen Gerald and Sima Taghavi also participated in the closed session. During the closed session, the Committee for the Police and Fire Plan discussed the annual disability recertification process.

When the meeting reopened, the Committee did not take any action. There being no further business, the meeting of the Police & Fire Plan adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Madden

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Secretary of the Meeting

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**EXHIBITS
TO
MINUTES OF HOWARD COUNTY POLICE AND FIRE EMPLOYEES'
RETIREMENT PLAN
AND HOWARD COUNTY RETIREMENT PLAN
JOINT MEETING OF THE RETIREMENT PLAN COMMITTEES
July 20, 2022**

1. NEPC Open Session Meeting Materials, July 20, 2022:
June 2022 Preliminary Performance Report
Private Markets Pacing Plan Review
Work Plan Review

2. Baillie Gifford presentation materials (July 2022)

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