

**ORANGE COUNTY EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM
2223 E. WELLINGTON AVENUE, SUITE100
SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA 92701**

DISABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING

March 15, 2021

8:30 a.m.

MINUTES

OPEN SESSION

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.

Attendance was as follows:

Present via Zoom Video conference pursuant to Executive Order N-29-20 issued by Governor Newsom on March 17, 2020:

Adele Tagaloa, Chair; Charles Packard; Roger Hilton

Also Present via Zoom:

Steve Delaney, Chief Executive Officer; Gina Ratto, General Counsel; Suzanne Jenike, Assistant CEO, External Operations; Megan Cortez, Disability Manager; Sonal Sharma , Recording Secretary; Anthony Beltran, Audio Visual Technician

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

CONSENT ITEMS

MOTION by Packard to approve staff's recommendation.

ALTERNATE MOTION by Hilton, **seconded** by Tagaloa, to approve staff's recommendation on all of the following items on the Consent Agenda with the exception of DC-1.

The motion passed **unanimously**.

DC-2: TAMARA JIMENEZ

Group Counselor II, Orange County Social Services Agency (General Member)

Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Disability Committee forward to the Board of Retirement a recommendation to:

- Grant service connected disability retirement.
- Set the effective date as May 10, 2019, the day after the last day of regular compensation for the Group Counselor II position.

- Find the Applicant is capable of performing other duties in the service of the County of Orange pursuant to Government Code Section 31725.65.
- Grant a supplemental disability retirement payment allowance in the amount of the salary difference between the higher and lower paying positions effective May 10, 2019, the date of the position change until the day Ms. Jimenez wishes to retire from the new position.

DC-3: PRESTON KNOWLES

Deputy Sheriff I, Orange County Sheriff's Department (Safety Member)

Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Disability Committee forward to the Board of Retirement a recommendation to:

- Deny service and non-service connected disability retirement without prejudice due to the member's failure to cooperate.

DC-4: JUAN OCEGUEDA

Senior Institutional Cook, Orange County Sheriff's Department (General Member)

Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Disability Committee forward to the Board of Retirement a recommendation to:

- Grant service connected disability retirement.
- Set the effective date as March 29, 2019.

DC-5: RANDY RIPKEN

Firefighter, Orange County Fire Authority (Safety Member)

Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Disability Committee forward to the Board of Retirement a recommendation to:

- Grant service connected disability retirement.
- Set the effective date as March 27, 2020.

DC-6: RICARDO ZAMORA

Sheriff's Special Officer II, Orange County Sheriff's Department (General Member)

Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Disability Committee forward to the Board of Retirement a recommendation to:

- Grant service connected disability retirement.
- Set the effective date as September 25, 2020.

The Disability Committee adjourned into closed session at 8:41 a.m.

The Disability Committee reconvened into open session at 8:59 a.m.

OPEN SESSION

A. REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION

DC-1: CHRISTINE ALFORD

Attorney IV, Orange County Public Defender's Office (General Member)

Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Disability Committee forward to the Board of Retirement a recommendation to:

- Grant service connected disability retirement.
- Set the effective date as November 23, 2018.

MOTION by Hilton, **seconded** by Packard to bring this item back to staff for review.

The motion passed **unanimously**.

DA-2: MARY NEGRON

Office Technician, Orange County Social Services Agency (General Member)

Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Disability Committee forward to the Board of Retirement a recommendation to:

- Grant non-service connected disability retirement.
- Set the effective date as June 7, 2019.
- Deny service connected disability retirement due to insufficient evidence of job causation.

MOTION by Packard, **seconded** by Hilton to approve staff recommendation.

The motion passed **unanimously**.

DA-3: SHERI PAK

Eligibility Technician, Orange County Social Services Agency (General Member)

Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Disability Committee forward to the Board of Retirement a recommendation to:

- Deny service connected disability retirement due to insufficient evidence of job causation.

MOTION by Hilton, **seconded** by Tagaloa to approve staff recommendation.

The motion passed **unanimously**.

DA-4: ROBERT SZEWCZYK-PULLED PER MEMBER'S REQUEST

Deputy Sheriff II, Orange County Sheriff's Department (Safety Member)

A. REVIEW OF THE DISABILITY RETIREMENT REEMPLOYMENT POLICY

Recommendation: Approve, and recommend that the Board approve, the Disability Retirement Reemployment Policy, with revisions, including changing the name of the Policy.

MOTION by Packard, **seconded** by Hilton to approve staff recommendation.

The motion passed **unanimously.**

B. REVIEW OF THE HEARING OFFICER SELECTION AND RETENTION POLICY

Recommendation: Approve, and recommend that the Board approve, the Hearing Officer Selection and Retention Policy, with revisions.

MOTION by Hilton, **seconded** by Packard to approve staff recommendation.

The motion passed **unanimously.**

C. MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 16, 2021 DISABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING

Recommendation: Approve the Minutes

MOTION by Hilton, **seconded** by Packard to approve the Minutes.

The motion passed **unanimously.**

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

None.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER/STAFF

None.

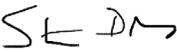
COMMENTS COUNSEL COMMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:06 a.m.

Submitted by:

DocuSigned by:

C00D5744FF39463...

Steve Delaney
Secretary to the Board

Approved by:

DocuSigned by:

D4180179322C41D...

Adele Tagaloa
Chair