MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING OF THE TAMPA FIRE & POLICE PENSION FUND

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December 13, 2023 10:38 a.m.

The Board of Trustees of the City Pension Fund for Firefighters and Police Officers in the City of Tampa met on Wednesday, December 13, 2023 at 10:38 a.m. for the purpose of formal hearing proceedings for line-of-duty disability applicant Tanya Vidovic, formerly of TFR, with the following members present:

Patrick Messmer, Chairman Matthew Belmonte John Cannon John Haintz Dennis Rogero Gregory Spearman
Jamie Stock
Alex Thiel
Ocea Wynn

Also present were Dr. Bruce Bohnker, Medical Director; Mr. Marcus Castillo, Attorney for Ms. Vidovic; Mr. Pedro Herrera, Legal Advocate for Board; Mr. Stuart Kaufman, General Counsel; and Ms. Tanya Vidovic, Disability Applicant

Mr. Kaufman began by outlining the procedure for the hearing, including summarizing document lists and exhibits. Mr. Messmer clarified that the policies identified within the document list were in fact TFR policies and not those of the Fund. Mr. Herrera objected to copies of unsigned worker's compensation documents.

Mr. Castillo made an opening statement followed by an overview from Mr. Herrera on prudent process. Ms. Vidovic was then sworn in and was asked about her usual daily routine, as well as the geographical layout of her fire station. Ms. Vidovic was questioned about why she declined certain surgeries and medical procedures. Various documents were reviewed.

Mr. Herrera commenced his cross examination at 11:40 a.m. Ms. Vidovic was asked details about relieving other firefighters once arriving for shift, her past medical procedures and surgeries, and her worker's compensation settlement. During cross examination, Ms. Vidovic referred to personal notes. After discussion, Mr. Castillo and Mr. Herrera agreed that these personal notes would be added into the record.

[Recess from 12:39 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.]

Upon return, Ms. Vidovic took questions from the Board regarding forms received and official procedures. At the conclusion, Mr. Castillo stated that he did not wish to re-direct. Mr. Herrera, however, did chose to re-direct, and Ms. Vidovic responded to additional inquiries.

Due to the desire of Mr. Castillo to play a lengthy video deposition, it was noted the hearing could not be concluded in one day. Discussion on continuing the formal hearing was held. Mr. Castillo stated that the possible replacement of any trustees would not be an issue for potential future hearings, provided any new trustees received a copy of today's transcript.

A video deposition of Dr. Gregory M. Schwaid was played for the Trustees.

Following the video, discussion of dates to hold the continuance on was held. It was agreed upon by general consensus to continue the hearing on January 12, 2024 at 9:30 a.m.

Page 2

F & P Pension Special Meeting Minutes December 13, 2023

The meeting adjourned at 3:26 p.m.

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Patrick Messmer, Chairman

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Adam Hollen, Recording Secretary

Notice

No verbatim record by a certified court reporter will be made of this Board meeting, except as noticed for any executive sessions. Any person who desires to appeal any decision of the Board of Trustees with respect to any matter considered at this Board meeting will be responsible for providing a record of the proceedings and for this purpose, may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which includes testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is based.

Persons needing a special accommodation to participate in any noticed meeting should contact the F&P pension office at (813) 274-8550 or (888) 335-8550 – toll free, or the Florida Relay Service at (800) 955-8770 – toll free, or dial 711 from any phone (regular phone/land line or cell phone) for the Florida Relay Service. Please make your request at least five (5) working days before the scheduled meeting date.