

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Interoffice Memorandum

DATE: December 18, 2023

TO: Milwaukee County Board Supervisors

FROM: Supervisor Willie Johnson, Jr., Chairman, Pension Study Commission

SUBJECT: From the Director of Retirement Plan Services, Milwaukee County Department of Human Resources, clarifying the Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances regarding eligibility for normal pension benefits, deferred vested pension benefits, survivor benefits, eligibility for contribution refunds, and adopting State presumptions for disability benefits and requesting authorization to amend Chapters 201.24(2.19), (3.11), (3.5), (4.1), (4.2), (4.3), (4.5), (4.6), (5.16), (6.1), (6.3), (6.4), (7.1), (11.7) and creating a new Chapter 201.24(2.24) of the Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances to reflect these changes. (File No. 23-1016)

The Pension Study Commission (PSC) is charged with issuing a written report on the actuarial effect, cost implications and desirability of proposed changes to the pension system. At its meeting on December 18, 2023, the PSC reviewed File No. 23-1016, which outlines proposed amendments to Sections 201.24(2.19), (3.11), (3.5), (4.1), (4.2), (4.3), (4.5), (4.6), (5.16), (6.1), (6.3), (6.4), (7.1), (11.7) and creating a new Section 201.24(2.24). These amendments are desired to clarify normal pension benefits, deferred vested pension benefits, survivor benefits, eligibility for contribution refunds, and adopting State presumptions for disability benefits.

The PSC reviewed File No. 23-1016, which includes a summary report, (revised) resolution/ordinance, fiscal analysis from the Office of the Comptroller, ordinance amendments summary, actuarial report, and a memo from the Pension Board stating its support of the proposed changes.

The memo and testimony from the Retirement Plan Services Director outlined the desirability for the amendments to streamline, clarify, and provide administrative efficiencies to the Employees' Retirement System (ERS). Also, the Wisconsin legislature previously passed laws relating to accidental disability benefits provided by certain retirement systems, including Milwaukee County and, while these laws have been incorporated into RPS' administration, they had not yet been updated in Ordinance.

The PSC also heard testimony from staff from the Office of the Comptroller and Segal, the County's actuary, that the package of ordinance revisions will have no fiscal impact on ERS or the County.

Based on the information presented and contained in File No. 23-1016, the Pension Study Commission voted (Vote 4-0) on the motion to recommend approval of the

resolution/ordinance and recommend the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors adopt the ordinance amendments.

Respectfully submitted,

Willie Johnson, Jr.

Willie Johnson, Jr., Chairman
Pension Study Commission

cc: County Executive David Crowley
Margaret Daun, Corporation Counsel
Erika Bronikowski, Director, Retirement Plan Services
Steve Cady, Research and Policy Director, Office of the Comptroller
Allyson Smith, Committee Coordinator, County Clerk