

**NEW HAVEN CITY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT FUND (CERF)  
TRUSTEE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2023, 8:00 A.M.  
VIRTUAL MEETING**

**Dial in Numbers:** US: +1 929 205 6099 or +1 301 715 8592

**Password:** 72695595

**Meeting ID:** 837 8158 2310

**Meeting URL:** <https://newhavenct.zoom.us/j/83781582310?pwd=plkJJRAsaPqcy8GhdWGfkaSMakhgrU.1>

**Meeting ID:** 837 8158 2310

**Password:** t3QakHTC

**TRUSTEES PRESENT:** Jerome Sagnella, Chairperson, Trustee  
Cathy Graves, Trustee  
Susan Whetstone, Trustee  
Mark Pietrosimone, Trustee  
Michael Gormany, Acting Controller, Trustee

**TRUSTEES ABSENT:** Justin Elicker, Mayor, Trustee

**ALSO, PRESENT:** Leanna Ambersley, Pension Administrator  
Taylor Cannon, Payroll/Benefit Auditor  
Fayan Robinson-Sims, Payroll/Benefit Auditor  
Jack Strother, Fund Counsel, Brenner, Saltzman & Wallman  
David Mendel, Hooker and Holcombe  
Richard Sych, Hooker and Holcombe  
Derek Ciampini, Raymond James, Fund Financial Consultant  
Wendy Coppola, Raymond James, Fund Financial Consultant  
Damaris Rivera, Fairview Capital  
Gar Chung/ Fin News

*Trustee Sagnella commenced the meeting at 8:05 a.m.*

**ITEM 1: INVESTMENT REPORT:**

**A. RAYMOND JAMES Presents**

Derek will be back next month as well to follow-up and may have WCM present

**ITEM 2: APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:**

**A. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE SEPTEMBER 20, 2023,  
VIRTUAL MEETING**

**MOTION:** Made by Trustee Pietrosimone to approve minutes

**MOTION SECONDED:** by Trustee Graves

**MOTION CARRIED:** by unanimous vote

**ITEM 3: ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS:**

**A. HOOKER AND HOLCOMBE CONTRACT RENEWAL**

**MOTION:** Made by Trustee Graves to extend current contract for 90 days while reviewing the provisions and updated fees of new contract with legal counsel.

**MOTION SECONDED:** by Trustee Whetstone

**MOTION CARRIED:** by unanimous vote

**A. BLEICHMAR FONTI & AULD FOLLOW-UP (Information Only)**

The Trustees requested Nancy Kulesa to be present at next month's meeting to give a clearer explanation.

**B. DISCUSSION: RFP FOR MEDICAL CONSULTANT**

The Trustees are in support of beginning the RFP process for a medical consultant, which should take about 2-3 months.

**ITEM 4: AGE ANNUITY/ RULE OF 80 /EARLY RETIREMENT – Information Only**

**A. Joel Moncrease**

Position: Security Officer

Date of Birth: 03/29/1952

Participation Date: 09/07/1993

Department: BOE

BU: 884

Retirement Date: 09/24/2022

**ITEM 5: CONDITIONAL MEMBER RETIREMENT – INFORMATION ONLY**

**A. Alissa Ebbson**

Position: Supervisor of Mgmt Svs

Age Elected to collect: 65

Participation Date: 1/7/2008

Department: Police Dept.

BU: 3144

Resignation Date: 8/6/2023

**ITEM 6: CONTRIBUTION WITHDRAWALS – INFORMATION ONLY**

**A. Erica Cruz**

Department: Public Library

Participation date: 01/28/2019

Withdrawal date: 09/29/2023

BU: 884

Resignation date: 04/07/2023

**ITEM 7: DISABILITY RETIREMENT RE-EXAMINATIONS**

The Pension Act covering the CERF vests the board the authority to re-examine members of the Fund retired on a disability retirement three (3) times over a five (5) year period from date of retirement. The Retirement Board requires that each member retired for a disability be re-examined by one of the Boards medical examiners.

**Toni Ascenzia: (3<sup>rd</sup> re-exam)**

Date of Employment: 08/26/2003

Date of Retirement: 03/17/2018

Position prior to Retirement: In House Suspension Worker

**MOTION:** Made by Trustee Graves to approve

**MOTION SECONDED:** by Trustee Pietrosimone

**MOTION CARRIED:** by unanimous vote

**ITEM 8: DEATH AFTER RETIREMENT – INFORMATION ONLY**

A. BETTY WOODSON-BRANHAM (DATE OF DEATH: 07/24/2023)

B. ANTHONY MONTAGNA (DATE OF DEATH: 08/11/2023)

C. ALBERT COSENZA (DATE OF DEATH: 08/22/2023)

D. MARCELLA LONGYEAR (DATE OF DEATH: 09/12/2023)

E. DELORES KNIGHT (DATE OF DEATH: 04/04/2020)

*Trustee Sagnella asked for a moment of silence for those in Item 8*

**ITEM 9: PAYMENT OF THE BILLS: (See Attached Itemization)**

**MOTION:** Made by Trustee Graves to approve the payment of the bills.

**MOTION SECONDED:** by Trustee Gormany

**DISCUSSION:** Trustee Whetstone has requested First State show the mathematics on their invoices

**MOTION CARRIED:** by unanimous vote

**ITEM 10: OLD BUSINESS:**

**ITEM 11: NEW BUSINESS:**

**ITEM 12: ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION:** Made by Trustee Graves to adjourn

**MOTION SECONDED:** by Trustee Pietrosimone

**MOTION CARRIED:** by unanimous vote

*The meeting adjourned at 9:28 A.M.*

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING:**

**November 15, 2023**

**8:00 a.m.**

**ITEM 9: ITEMIZED BILLS FOR PAYMENT:**

**A) LEGAL EXPENSES:**

<b>BRENNER, SALTZMAN &amp; WALLMAN LLP- PROFESSIONAL SERVICES: SEPTEMBER 2023 #72228</b>	<b>\$6,000.00</b>
<b>Total Legal Expenses</b>	<b>\$6,000.00</b>

**B). INVESTMENT EXPENSES:**

<b>First State Trust – 07/01/2023 – 09/30/2023</b>	<b>\$7,900.26</b>
<b>Total Investment Expenses</b>	<b>\$7,900.26</b>

<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$13,900.26</b>
-----------------------	--------------------

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael Gormany, Acting Controller, CERF Trustee