

## D.C.R.B. REPORT

A Publication of the D.C. Retirement Board for Active and Retired Fire Fighters, Police Officers, and Teachers

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## D.C. Retirement Board

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#### **Trustees**

Mary A. Collins, Chairman, Elected Active Teacher Barbara Davis Blum, Mayoral Appointee Shireen L. Dodson, Council Appointee Betty Ann Kane, Council Appointee Brian K. Lee, Elected Active Fire Fighter Judith C. Marcus, Elected Retired Teacher Michael J. McNally, Elected Retired Fire Fighter Darrick O. Ross, Elected Active Police Officer William H. Simons, Mayoral Appointee George R. Suter, Elected Retired Police Officer Lenda P. Washington, Council Appointee [Vacant], Mayoral Appointee N. Anthony Calhoun, Ex Officio Representative

#### **Staff**

Jorge Morales, Executive Director
Valerie Borden, Program Analyst
William Carr, Investment Analyst
Bruce Gamble, General Counsel
Florence Jones, Finance Assistant
Sheila Morgan-Johnson, Chief Investment Officer
Rhonda O'Neal, Senior Accountant
Denice Patterson, Administrative Assistant
Michael Slavin, Deputy Director for
Operations and Benefits
Julius Terrell, Associate General Counsel

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### **COLA**

The DC Director of Personnel determined that the cost of living adjustment (COLA) to benefits beginning March 1, 2002 is 1.6% for police officers and fire fighters and 1.3% for teachers.

## The Chairman's Corner

#### **Your Retirement Board**

At its regularly scheduled meeting on February 21, 2002, the Board conducted its annual election of executive officers who will serve in their respective positions until February, 2003. I am pleased to report that I received a unanimous vote of



confidence to once again serve as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Board. Other executive officers include: Betty Ann Kane, Secretary; Judith C. Marcus, Treasurer; Brian K. Lee, Parliamentarian; and Darrick O. Ross, Sergeant-at-Arms.

#### **Committee Structure**

Since inception, the Board has operated under a committee system that provides a two-tiered process for review and analysis of all issues that come before it. As Chairman of the Board, one of my first official acts was to appoint chairs of each standing committee, each of whom brings individual skills and steadfast resolve to make significant contributions to the Board's singular mission. Given the important work begun by these Committees during the past 12 months, I invited the current committee Chairs to continue their dedicated service for an additional one-year term, and each one has accepted the challenge.

Barbara Davis Blum will again guide the Investment Committee as this ACommittee of the Whole@ continually monitors investment managers and Total Fund performance. This year, the Committee will also conduct an important asset/liability study to determine an appropriate strategic asset allocation model that reflects capital market assumptions and incorporates modern fiduciary investment practices. Shireen L. Dodson will direct the Minority Participation Committee's efforts to enhance investment performance by crafting internal policies and procedures that seek to capitalize on the advantages offered by largely untapped investment talent. As Chair of the Legislative Committee, Betty Ann Kane will

continue to track legislative enactments and administrative actions that affect the Board's activities. This Committee is also responsible for advancing certain Board initiatives including efforts to resolve systemic issues involving fragmentation of authority to administer the District's retirement programs. George R. Suter's Benefits Committee will again engage in persistent and diligent oversight of many critical issues including revisions to summary plan descriptions. The Committee will also focus on efforts to better coordinate information among political subdivisions of the District responsible for implementation of various components of the defined benefit plans. Finally, as Chairman of the Operations Committee, Lenda P. Washington will fully exercise her considerable and consummate skills managing the Board's organizational and operational functions including budget development and oversight, annual audits, financial record keeping and reporting, personnel policies, and a myriad of other important matters that come under her Committee's jurisdiction. Other hard working members who often take on special projects for the Board include ex officio representative N. Anthony Calhoun, retired fire fighter representative Michael J. McNally, and Mayoral appointee William H. Simons.

Of course, all of the important accomplishments of the Board would not be possible without talented and dedicated staff professionals. On behalf of the Board, I would like to offer our sincere thanks to our entire staff for their tireless, painstaking efforts to manage the all important day-to-day operations, which facilitate accomplishment of the Board's goals and objectives.

As Chairman of the Board for another term, I once again pledge my continued commitment to lead the Board's efforts to prudently manage the assets of your retirement funds. Our successful efforts will guarantee proper financing for the benefits to which you are entitled, and maintain a solid foundation for your overall retirement security.

# Investment Program Update

#### **Investment Objective**

The Board is charged with the responsibility of managing the assets of the teachers, police officers and fire fighters retirement plans. The Board is required to discharge its fiduciary duties solely in the interest of the participants and beneficiaries, with the care, skill, and diligence, which a prudent

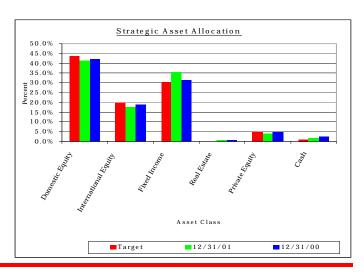
person would ordinarily exercise under similar circumstances. This standard of care requires diversifying the assets of the Board so as to minimize the risk of large losses.

Investment objectives are designed to optimize risk-adjusted returns. The prudent person standard allows the Board to establish investment policies based on investment criteria that it defines, and to delegate investment authority to investment professionals.

Board assets are managed by external investment management firms, who employ both active and passive strategies. Investment management firms are selected and retained based on rigorous performance and organizational factors. These firms engaged by the Board must have a demonstrated track record and a clearly defined and applied investment philosophy.

The long-term investment objective established by the Board is to achieve a rate of return which exceeds the 7.25% actuarial return assumption. The Board is a long-term investor and consequently, long-term results are emphasized over short-term gains.

Asset allocation is a key determinant of a successful investment program, and it is credited with being responsible for determining as much as 90% of a pension plan's total return in a given year. Asset allocation is the process that results in the selection of an optimal portfolio which best reflects the risk tolerance and environment of the Board. Diversification is achieved by combining asset classes, which are not perfectly correlated with each other. This may result in offsetting a market decline in one asset class with appreciation in another asset class. The benefit of diversification is a reduction in the volatility of the total portfolio's investment performance. The Board takes both asset and liability side considerations into account when reviewing asset allocation. The current strategic asset structure is as follows:

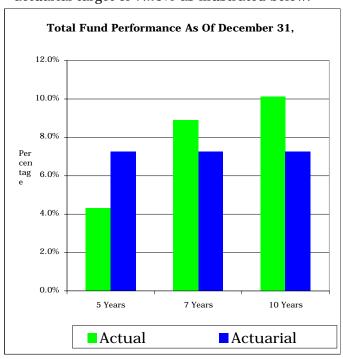


#### **Investment Performance**

The investment program achieved good performance relative to the Total Fund Benchmark for calendar year 2001, with a total return of -5.0%. This return exceeded the Total Fund Benchmark return of -7.6% by 260 basis points. Performance is calculated using the time-weighted rates of return in compliance with AIMR (Association for Investment Management and Research) standards. Total returns for the 3, 5, and 10 year periods ended December 31, 2001, were 4.3%, 8.9% and 10.1%, respectively. Total return includes interest and dividends as well as capital appreciation.

Despite extreme market volatility, the fair value of the Board's assets decreased only 1%, from \$2,075 million on December 31, 2000 to \$2,052 million on December 31, 2001.

The Board's domestic (U.S.) equity investments returned -7.8% for the calendar year and international equities (non-U.S.) returned -19.3% for the same time period. Fixed income securities fared much better returning 9.1% during 2001. Private equity is reported with a one-quarter lag to the rest of the investment program, returning -20.1% for 2001. The Board's exposure to real estate is guite minimal, with the last remaining property sold in October 2001. This return is also reported with a one-quarter lag, returning -9.9% for the calendar year. The Board's investment performance exceeded that of its benchmarks for all asset classes, except real estate and private equity. Over longer time periods, the Board's performance has consistently exceeded the actuarial target of 7.25% as illustrated below:



## Legislative Report

The Board promulgated a final rule in the <u>District of Columbia Register</u> (49 DCR 1095, pub. Feb. 8, 2002) affecting prospective candidates for election to the Retirement Board. In order to give candidates an opportunity to more fully describe their qualification for service on the Board, the Board's election rules were amended to increase the qualification statement word limit from 25 to 50.

#### Fiscal Year 2002 Budget Approved

The District of Columbia Appropriations Act, 2002 (Pub. L. 107-96) was signed into law on December 21, 2001. Consistent with the Board's request, \$13,388,000 is appropriated from the earnings of the applicable retirement funds to pay legal, management, investment, and other fees and administrative expenses of the Retirement Board.

#### **Board Testifies before City Council**

On February 11, 2002, the Board provided testimony to the Committee on Government Operations chaired by the Honorable Vincent B. Orange, Sr. At this hearing, the Board provided an overview of its investment performance and noted several related goals and objectives:

#### **MOA for Charter School Retirement**

After extensive negotiation, the Board signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on February 14, 2002 which provides interim guidelines to implement the retirement options prescribed by the District of Columbia School Reform Act of 1995.

#### **Summary Plan Descriptions**

The Board continues to work in cooperation with the U.S. Department of the Treasury (Office of D.C. Pensions), to revise retirement plan description summaries of the retirement programs for District police officers, fire fighters and teachers.

#### **Plan Governance**

The Board participated in an informal working group comprised of representatives from the D.C. Office of Personnel, the D.C. Office of Pay and Retirement Services, and the D.C. Treasury, for the purpose of identifying and resolving concerns that exist in administration of the District's retirement programs which include both the defined benefit and defined contribution plans. The D.C. Office of Personnel is taking the lead in this effort and is currently evaluating alternative approaches to solve existing concerns.

#### **Election of Retired Teachers Representative**

On December 20, 2001, the Board certified the results of the election of Judith C. Marcus to serve a second term representing retired teachers.

| STATEMENTS OF NET   | ASSETS             | š  |                 |   |  |
|---|--------------------|--|-----------------|---|--|
| September 30, 20  | 01                 |  |                 |   |  |
| (\$000s)  |                    |  |                 |   |  |
|   | т                  | eachers'   | Poli            | ce Officers &   |  |
|   | Re                 | Retirement   |                 | Fire Fighters'  |  |
|   | Fund               |  | Retirement Fund |   |  |
| ASSETS  | -                  |  | -               |   |  |
| Investments & accrued interest  | \$                 | 829,187  | \$              | 1,164,361   |  |
| Benefit contributions receivable  |                    | 1,349  |                 | 982   |  |
| Due from District, net  |                    |  |                 |   |  |
| Total Assets  |                    | 830,536  |                 | 1,165,343   |  |
| LIABILITIES   |                    |  |                 |   |  |
| Liabilities under securities lending transactions   |                    | 48,036   |                 | 67,777  |  |
| Accounts payable - investment expenses  |                    | 571  |                 | 802   |  |
| Due to Federal government   |                    | 2,600  |                 | 2,000   |  |
| Due to District, net  |                    | 575  |                 | 946   |  |
| Total liabilities   |                    | 51,782   |                 | 71,525  |  |
| Net Assets Held in Trust for Pension Benefits   | \$                 | 778,754  | \$              | 1,093,818   |  |
| STATEMENTS OF CHANGES II<br>Year Ended September<br>(\$000s)  | 30, 200            | 1  | Deli            | oo Officers 9   |  |
| Year Ended September  | 30, 200<br>T       | eachers'   |                 |   |  |
| Year Ended September  | 30, 200<br>T       | eachers'   | Fir             | re Fighters'  |  |
| Year Ended September<br>(\$000s)  | 30, 200<br>T       | eachers'   | Fir             | re Fighters'  |  |
| Year Ended September<br>(\$000s)<br>Additions   | 30, 200<br>T       | eachers'   | Fir             | re Fighters'  |  |
| Year Ended September (\$000s)  Additions Contributions:   | 30, 200<br>T<br>R€ | eachers'<br>etirement<br>Fund  | Fir<br>Reti     | re Fighters'<br>Irement Fund  |  |
| Year Ended September (\$000s)  Additions Contributions: District  | 30, 200<br>T       | eachers' etilrement Fund   | Fir             | re Fighters'<br>rement Fund<br>49,000   |  |
| Year Ended September (\$000s)  Additions Contributions: District Employees  | 30, 200<br>T<br>R€ | eachers' etirement Fund  200 24,047  | Fir<br>Reti     | re Fighters'<br>irement Func<br>49,000<br>16,832  |  |
| Year Ended September (\$000s)  Additions Contributions: District Employees Total contributions  | 30, 200<br>T<br>R€ | eachers' etilrement Fund   | Fir<br>Reti     | re Fighters'<br>irement Fund<br>49,000<br>16,832  |  |
| Year Ended September (\$000s)  Additions Contributions: District Employees Total contributions Investment income:   | 30, 200<br>T<br>R€ | eachers' etirement Fund 200 24,047 24,247  | Fir<br>Reti     | 49,000<br>16,832<br>65,832  |  |
| Additions Contributions: District Employees Total contributions Investment income: Net appreciation (Depreciation) in fair value of   | 30, 200<br>T<br>R€ | eachers' etirement Fund 200 24,047 24,247 (129,875)  | Fir<br>Reti     | 49,000<br>16,832<br>(182,947  |  |
| Additions Contributions: District Employees Total contributions Investment income: Net appreciation (Depreciation) in fair value of Interest and dividends, net of interest expense   | 30, 200<br>T<br>R€ | 200<br>24,047<br>24,247<br>(129,875)<br>27,247   | Fir<br>Reti     | 49,000<br>16,832<br>65,832<br>(182,947<br>38,779  |  |
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| Additions Contributions: District Employees Total contributions Investment income: Net appreciation (Depreciation) in fair value of Interest and dividends, net of interest expense Subtotal Less:  | 30, 200<br>T<br>R€ | 200<br>24,047<br>24,247<br>(129,875)<br>27,247<br>(102,628)  | Fir<br>Reti     | 49,000<br>16,832<br>65,832<br>(182,947<br>38,779<br>(144,168  |  |
| Additions Contributions: District Employees Total contributions Investment income: Net appreciation (Depreciation) in fair value of Interest and dividends, net of interest expense Subtotal  | 30, 200<br>T<br>R€ | 200<br>24,047<br>24,247<br>(129,875)<br>27,247   | Fir<br>Reti     | 49,000<br>16,832<br>65,832<br>(182,947<br>38,779<br>(144,168  |  |
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| Additions Contributions: District Employees Total contributions Investment income: Net appreciation (Depreciation) in fair value of Interest and dividends, net of interest expense Subtotal Less: Investment expenses Net investment income Total Additions  Deductions  | 30, 200<br>T<br>R€ | 200<br>24,047<br>24,247<br>(129,875)<br>27,247<br>(102,628)<br>1,908<br>(104,536)<br>(80,289)                          | Fir<br>Reti     | 49,000<br>16,832<br>65,832<br>(182,947<br>38,779<br>(144,168<br>2,858<br>(147,026<br>(81,194                                |  |
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| Additions Contributions: District Employees Total contributions Investment income: Net appreciation (Depreciation) in fair value of Interest and dividends, net of interest expense Subtotal Less: Investment expenses Net investment income Total Additions  Deductions Benefit Payments Administrative expenses   | 30, 200<br>T<br>R€ | eachers' etirement Fund  200 24,047 24,247  (129,875) 27,247 (102,628)  1,908 (104,536) (80,289)  2,600 822            | Fir<br>Reti     | 49,000<br>16,832<br>65,832<br>(182,947]<br>38,779<br>(144,168]<br>2,858<br>(147,026)<br>(81,194]<br>2,838<br>1,161<br>3,999 |  |
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| Additions Contributions: District Employees Total contributions Investment income: Net appreciation (Depreciation) in fair value of Interest and dividends, net of interest expense Subtotal Less: Investment expenses Net investment income Total Additions  Deductions Benefit Payments Administrative expenses Total Deductions  Net Increase (Decrease) | 30, 200<br>T<br>R€ | 200<br>24,047<br>24,247<br>(129,875)<br>27,247<br>(102,628)<br>1,908<br>(104,536)<br>(80,289)<br>2,600<br>822<br>3,422 | Fir<br>Reti     | 49,000<br>16,832<br>65,832<br>(182,947)<br>38,779<br>(144,168)<br>2,858<br>(147,026)<br>(81,194)<br>2,838<br>1,161          |  |

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