



CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS  
GENERAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
233 E. FULTON, SUITE 216  
GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49503  
PHONE: 616-365-5015  
FAX: 616-288-9509

WINTER 2018  
ISSUE R

## *The Retirement Register*

### Announcement Regarding the 13<sup>th</sup> Check

We regret to inform our retirees that there will not be a 13th Check Pension Supplement issued on January 31, 2019. The 13th Check is issued annually, if funds are available, by the City of Grand Rapids General Retirement System to eligible retirees and beneficiaries. This check, a negotiated part of your retirement benefit, can only occur when the average annual market value rates of return for the investment of retirement system assets have experienced sufficient gains during the last five years to allow for the distribution of excess reserve funds. The five-year average market value rate of return was 7.55% for the General Retirement System. Per City Code, in order for a 13<sup>th</sup> Check to be issued, the five-year average market value rate of return must exceed 8.0%. Therefore, there are not sufficient reserves to issue a 13<sup>th</sup> Check on January 31, 2019. Although it is our hope that a distribution will always occur, the economy, volatility of financial markets, and other considerations may not make it possible to do so every year.

#### Which benefit am I eligible to receive?

<u>Bargaining Unit</u>	<u>Retirement Date</u>	<u>13th Check</u>	<u>Escalator</u>
APAGR (main unit & 61st District Ct.)	Before 10/21/2008	X	
APAGR (main unit & 61st District Ct.)	On/after 10/21/2008		X
GREIU (main unit & 61st District Ct.)	Before 03/24/2009	X	
GREIU (main unit & 61st District Ct.)	On/after 03/24/2009		X
Crime Scene Technicians	Before 05/12/2009	X	
Crime Scene Technicians	On/after 05/12/2009		X
GREIU - Library Units	Before 07/09/2009	X	
GREIU - Library Units	On/after 07/09/2009		X
Emergency Communication Supv.	Before 09/13/2011	X	
Emergency Communication Supv.	On/after 09/13/2011		X
Non-represented (management)	Before 07/01/2014	X	
Non-represented (management)	On/after 07/01/2014		X
Emergency Communications Op.	Any	X	

\* Retirees NEVER receive both benefits.

\* If you have received a 13th Check in the past, then you will be eligible for a 13th Check any year in which a 13th Check is issued.

\* City ordinance requires that the recipient be alive on January 31 of the distribution year.

\* 13th Checks are issued on the business day prior to the day normal pension checks are issued.

\* 13th Check amounts will not be disclosed prior to issuance, under any circumstances and are not the same amount as your regular pension check.

\* Escalators are paid as increases to the retiree's monthly check.

## *New Retirees*

The Trustees and staff of the General Retirement System are pleased to congratulate the following new retirees:

Kimberly Miller*	(Parking Svc.)	07/01/18	Karol Evans*	(Assessors)	08/01/18
Terry D.B. Warner*	(Comptrollers)	07/01/18	Jerry Bruin	(EP-WWTP)	08/02/18
Eileen Pierce	(Traffic Safety)	07/03/18	Arthur Campione, Jr.	(Streets & San.)	09/05/18
Catherine Boland	(61 <sup>st</sup> D.C.)	07/06/18	Brian Mazurek	(Water)	09/05/18
Robin Boss	(EP-WWTP)	07/06/18	Donald Passenger*	(Attorney)	10/01/18
Robert Kruis	(Neigh. Imp.)	07/06/18	Mari Beth Johnson-Jelks	(Human Resources)	11/03/18
Mary Aalsburg	(Library)	07/14/18	Debra Bowden	(Police)	11/24/18

\*Deferred Member

## *Summary Report of Plan Operations/Expenses*

How much does it cost to manage the General Retirement System? For the period 07/01/17 – 06/30/18, it cost the Retirement System a little more than \$1.6 million. Most of this amount (\$1,045,807) was for investment manager fees. The balance of the expenses, \$556,142, paid for asset custody, auditors, actuaries, attorneys, independent medical evaluations, office rent, staff salaries and training. The costs to run the plan are 0.38% (38 basis points) of the market value of assets, compared to the national average of 55 basis points. All fees and expenses are paid in cash, as the Plan does not employ soft dollar arrangements.

### *Funded Status*

<u>Actuarial Accrued Liabilities</u>	<u>Applied Assets</u>	<u>% Funded</u>
\$526,954,073	\$426,989,004	81%

The Retirement System continues to be in solid financial condition in accordance with its objective of level dollar, closed funding. While it is not possible to provide a full range of Plan activity in a newsletter, a summary annual report is available for review. Audits, annual accountings, and actuarial valuations may be reviewed at the Retirement Systems Office.

## *Pension or Insurance Questions*

If you have questions regarding your pension, please contact the City of Grand Rapids Retirement Systems Office at (616) 365-5015. All address, direct deposit, federal withholding, or name changes **must be sent in writing** to: **City of Grand Rapids Retirement Systems, 233 E. Fulton Street, Suite 216, Grand Rapids, MI 49503**. Changes received by mid-month will be effective at the end of that month. Please note that any of the aforementioned changes **must be signed by the retiree**, unless he/she has a valid Power of Attorney document on file with the Retirement Systems Office. **City health insurance** questions should be directed to Insurance Services at (616) 456-3300. **Seniors Choice insurance** questions should be directed to (888) 228-3002.

## *In Memory of Departed Friends*

Robert Dombrowski	05/16/18	Mary Hall*	07/14/18	Benjamin Logan II	09/24/18
Willie Couch	06/04/18	Francis Palmer	07/15/18	William Michael, Jr.	10/03/18
John Rendak	06/07/18	Fred VandenBoogert*	07/26/18	Kathleen Engle*	10/22/18
Randall Fisher	06/15/18	Gloria VanPortfliet*	07/81/18	Kurt Mai	10/23/18
Marc Sonefeld	06/16/18	David Knaffle**	08/05/18	Maralyn Barbans*	10/26/18
Barbara Hawke	06/20/18	Jan Roy	08/19/18	*Denotes Beneficiary	
Leona Landauer	06/26/18	Joseph Schmidt	09/13/18	**Denotes Active Employee	
Cornell VanderWeide	06/28/18	Michael Schmidt	09/17/18		