



CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS
GENERAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM
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ISSUE A

The Retirement Register

Summary Report of Plan Operations/Expenses

How much does it cost to manage the General Retirement System? For the period 07/01/18 — 06/30/19, it cost the Retirement System a little more than \$1.6 million. Most of this amount (\$1,026,719) was for investment manager fees. The balance of the expenses, \$596,090, paid for asset custody, auditors, actuaries, attorneys, independent medical evaluations, office rent, staff salaries and training. The costs to run the plan are 0.39% (39 basis points) of the market value of assets, compared to the national average of 60 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>
\$539,265,786	\$429,105,052	80%

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 or online at www.grpensions.org.

What is a Pension Escalator?

A pension escalator is a negotiated benefit between the City of Grand Rapids and the bargaining units that provides eligible members for an increase of 1% of his/her original monthly retirement amount after four years of retirement (six years for members of the Crime Scene Technicians/Latent Print Examiners and Emergency Communication Supervisors groups and seven years for Non-Represented members).

The members of the covered groups listed below are eligible for a pension escalator as follows:

<u>Covered Group</u>	<u>Termination Date With The City</u>
APAGR & APAGR 61st District Court	On or after October 21, 2008
GREIU & GREIU 61st District Court	On or after March 24, 2009
Crime Scene Technicians/Latent Print Examiners	On or after May 12, 2009
GREIU Public Library Rank & File and Supervisory Bargaining Units	On or after July 9, 2009
Emergency Communication Supervisors	On or after September 13, 2011
Non-Represented Members	On or after July 1, 2014

Increases shall be granted on the first January or July following the retiree's waiting period, whichever occurs first, and shall be paid annually thereafter. The amount of the monthly escalator increase shall be based on the original retirement benefit and shall not be compounded. In the event of a change in the monthly benefit amount due to either the death of a retiree or surviving beneficiary, or an automatic adjustment necessitated by the option elected at the time of retirement, the escalator increase shall be determined based on the original corresponding benefit amount and shall be applied based on the original retirement date.

New Retirees

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

Douglas Gillean	(Water-Field Ops)	08/07/19	Jack Maskell	(EP-WWTP)	09/04/19
David DeVries*	(Parking Svcs.)	09/01/19	Mark Pranger	(EP-WWTP)	09/17/19
Donald Klinge	(Engineering)	09/04/19	Dennis Bochniak*	(Assessor)	11/01/19

*Deferred Member

2020 Pre-Retirement Planning Session for Active Employees

The Retirement Systems Office will offer planning sessions for small groups of 5-6 active employees, and their beneficiaries, to discuss retirement issues. The presentations are geared for those employees who are contemplating retiring within two years. Information on the 457 deferred compensation plan will be distributed to participants, and there will also be a representative from Insurance Services to speak about retiree healthcare provisions.

The presentations for 2020 are scheduled for March 25, July 22, and November 4. The meetings will be held from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. in the Retirement Systems Office, 233 E. Fulton, Suite 216. If you are interested in attending any of these sessions, please contact Lisa Balkema at 365-5015 to register.

In Memory of Departed Friends

Peter Balodis	07/05/19	Michael Grygorzyk	08/06/19	Donald Palasek*	10/09/19
John Carrel	07/16/19	Sterling Zimmerman, Jr.	09/08/19	Anthony Kuzma	10/12/19
Roger Cole*	07/16/19	Warren Johnson	09/19/19	Thomas Mettler	10/15/19
Elizabeth Joswick*	07/16/19	Roberta Geiger	09/20/19	William Beattie	10/16/19
Percy Smith	07/16/19	Kay Sterken	09/22/19	Eleanor Brummel*	10/26/19
Janet Gilbert*	08/01/19	Wayne VanderWal	09/30/19		

*Denotes Beneficiary

2020 Board Meeting Dates

January 15	March 18	June 17	September 16	December 16
February 19	May 20	August 19	November 18	