

**WAYNE COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

**August 25, 2025
10:00 am**

**28 WEST ADAMS, 18TH FLOOR
CONFERENCE ROOM
GRAND PARK CENTRE
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48226**

Commissioners Present:

Henry Wilson, Chair

Frank Simone, Vice-Chair

Tom Yee

Denis Martin

Ron Yee

Elizabeth Misuraca

ELECTED MEMBERS TO THE BOARD

Alisha Bell, Chair

Wayne County Commission

EX-OFFICIO MEMBER

Absent:

Assad Turfe,

Office of the Wayne County Executive

EX-OFFICIO MEMBER

Others Present:

Robert Grden, Gerard Grysco, Taylor Kosikowski, Emily Cottick, Robert Abb, Kevin VandenHaute, Mark Mueller, Shadi Maasri, Bruce Campbell, Kathleen Colin

1. Call to Order at 10:05 am.
2. Roll Call.

Present: Henry Wilson, Chair; Frank Simone, Vice-Chair; Ron Yee; Denis Martin; Tom Yee; Elizabeth Misuraca; Alisha Bell

Absent: Assad Turfe

- 3a. Approval of minutes of the meeting of July 28, 2025 and August 8, 2025.

Mr. Simone moved the adoption of the following resolution:

RESOLVED, by the Wayne County Employees' Retirement Commission, to Waive the reading of the minutes and Approve the minutes of July 28, 2025 and August 8, 2025.

The motion was supported by Ms. Misuraca and carried unanimously 7-0.

- 3b. Applications for retirement.

Mr. Simone moved the adoption of the following resolution:

RESOLVED, by the Wayne County Employees' Retirement Commission, to Approve the applications for retirement.

The motion was supported by Ms. Misuraca and carried unanimously 7-0.

APPLICATIONS				
Emp. ID	Name	Dept.	Application Date	Retirement Date
32892	Levil Iroha	HHVS	07/22/2025	09/01/2025
20560	Arthur Cooper III	WCS	07/24/2025	09/01/2025
32838	Wilma Moore-Price	M&B	08/01/2025	09/01/2025
**	Daniel Howe	WCAA	*08/01/2025	09/01/2025
**	Dawn Kruse	WCAA	*08/01/2025	11/01/2025
21114	Herbert H. Bostic, Jr.	WCS	08/08/2025	11/01/2025
37221	Sharlene Gant-Greer	Pros Atty	08/14/2025	09/15/2025
25086	Steven G. Hawk	WCS	08/15/2025	09/15/2025
21354	John C. Beamer	WCS	08/15/2025	11/14/2025

* Date Application was Rcv'd from WCAA

** Oracle sets ID# after hired on payroll

DISABILITY APPLICATIONS

Name	Dept.	Application Date
Jaia Amore	Corp Coun	07/31/2025

3c. Removals from pension payroll because of death.

Mr. Simone moved the adoption of the following resolution:

RESOLVED, by the Wayne County Employees' Retirement Commission, that the listed retirees be Removed from the pension payroll because of their deaths on the indicated dates, and further

RESOLVED, that any monies due to the deceased be paid to the named beneficiaries, subject to the receipt of a death certificate in each case.

The motion was supported by Ms. Misuraca and carried unanimously 7-0.

DEATHS

Name	
William Achinger- Deferred	Evelyn Wiskowski
Sally Brees	Larry Groth Jr.
Jimmy Marshall	Christine Gamber-McLenon
Margie Carey	Bessie Mackie
Irene Varga	Geraldine Miller
Robert Radnick	Joyce Papden
Mildred McCray	Richard Guyton
Dennis Koenig	

3d. Retirement Allowances.

Mr. Simone moved the adoption of the following resolution:

RESOLVED, by the Wayne County Employees' Retirement Commission, to Approve the final retirement allowances.

The motion was supported by Ms. Misuraca and carried unanimously 7-0.

NEW RETIREES

Name	Dept.	Name	Dept.
Levil Iroha	HHVS	Wilma K. Moore-Price	M&B
Arthur Cooper III	WCS	Linda Lopez – Alt Payee	-
Glenn Fecteau	Deferred -DPS		

- 3e. Adjustment of pensions for retirees because of additional earnings, annual leave payments, overpayments, etc.

Mr. Simone moved the adoption of the following resolution:

RESOLVED, by the Wayne County Employees' Retirement Commission, to Approve the adjustment of pensions for retirees because of additional earnings, annual leave payments, overpayments, etc.

The motion was supported by Ms. Misuraca and carried unanimously 7-0.

UPDATES FROM PREVIOUS AGENDA (NEW RETIREES)	
Name	Effective Date
(None)	

ADJUSTMENTS	
Name	Adjustment Date
(None)	

ADJUSTMENTS TO CONTRIBUTIONS ONLY	
Name	Adjustment Date
(None)	

- 3f. Re-calculations and/or Pop-ups due to death of spouse, and attainment of age 60 under Disability Retirement as well as additional contributions.

Mr. Simone moved the adoption of the following resolution:

RESOLVED, by the Wayne County Employees' Retirement Commission, to Approve the Re-calculations and/or Pop-ups due to death of spouse, and attainment of age 60 under Disability Retirement as well as additional contributions.

The motion was supported by Ms. Misuraca and carried unanimously 7-0.

RE-CALCULATIONS	
Name	Conversion Date
(None)	

POP-UPS	
Name	Pop-Up Date
Catherine Doig	08/01/2025
Paul Pasco	09/01/2025
Doyle Patterson	07/01/2025

3g. July stipends (pay date 08/01/25) of \$126,281.73 for pre-Medicare eligible members pursuant to Wayne County Ordinance 2015-610.

Mr. Simone moved the adoption of the following resolution:

RESOLVED, by the Wayne County Employees' Retirement Commission, to Approve the June stipends (pay date 08/01/25) of \$126,281.73 for pre-Medicare eligible members pursuant to Wayne County Ordinance 2015-610.

The motion was supported by Ms. Misuraca and carried unanimously 7-0.

3h. Correspondence.

Mr. Simone moved the adoption of the following resolution:

RESOLVED, by the Wayne County Employees' Retirement Commission, to Accept the correspondence.

The motion was supported by Ms. Misuraca and carried unanimously 7-0.

4. Recommendation from Dr. Chad Stennett, Medical Director and Corporation Counsel regarding the disability retirement of the following members:

Non-Duty Disability

(None)

Duty Disability

(None)

M.C.L.A. 15.243(1)(h), which permits a Public Body to discuss matters in closed session that are subject to Physician-Patient Privilege, noting that a roll call is required for this motion.

No action necessary on this item.

5. Recommendation from Dr. Stennett, Medical Director and Corporation Counsel regarding re-examination(s) for disability retiree members:

(None)

No action necessary on this item.

6. Consideration of a legal report from Corporation Counsel regarding David Szymanski's eligibility for pension benefits in connection with his lawsuit against the County of Wayne concerning coverage for medical benefits (Pass for the Day on July 28, 2025).

M.C.L.A. 15.243(1)(g), which permits a Public Body to discuss matters in closed session that are subject to Attorney-Client Privilege, noting that a roll call is required for this motion.

Mr. Simone made a motion to go into Closed Session to discuss agenda items #6, #7, and #15 pursuant to the provisions of the Michigan Open Meetings Act, M.C.L. 15.268(1)(h), which permits a Public Body to discuss matters in closed session that are exempt by other statutes.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Michigan Open Meetings Act, M.C.L. 15.243(1)(h), which permits a Public Body to discuss matters in closed session that are exempt by other statutes. Information subject to Attorney-Client Privilege is not subject to disclosure, noting that a roll call is required for this motion. M.C.L. 15.243(1)(g). This is not subject to disclosure under The Freedom of Information Act, M.C.L. 15.231 et seq. The agenda items to be discussed are #6 and #15; and further

Pursuant to the provisions of the Michigan Open Meetings Act, M.C.L.A. 15.267(2), which permits a Public Body to discuss closed session minutes that are not available to the public, noting that a roll call is required for this motion. This is not subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, M.C.L. 15.231 et seq. The agenda item to be discussed is #7.

The motion was supported by Mr. Tom Yee and carried unanimously 7-0 with a roll call vote, Henry Wilson – yes, Frank Simone – yes, Denis Martin – yes, Tom Yee – yes, Elizabeth Misuraca – yes, Ron Yee – yes, Alisha Bell – yes.

The Retirement Commission went into closed session at 10:06 AM.

Bruce Cambell moved to the table at 10:06 AM.

Bruce Campbell exited the meeting for the day at 11:05 AM.

Kevin VandenHaute, Mark Mueller, and Shadi Maasri moved to the table at 11:05 AM.

The Retirement Commission returned to open session at 11:09 AM with the following Commissioners present: Henry Wilson, Frank Simone, Denis Martin, Tom Yee, Elizabeth Misuraca, Ron Yee, and Alisha Bell.

Mr. Simone moved the adoption of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Retirement Commission of the Wayne County Employees' Retirement System (the "Retirement Commission") is vested with the fiduciary responsibility for the proper administration, management and operation of the Retirement System, and for making effective the Retirement System provisions, and

WHEREAS, the Retirement Commission administers benefits in accordance with Plan provisions and applicable state and federal law and must pay benefits consistent therewith, and

WHEREAS, Wayne County Corporation Counsel provided copies of the opinions and orders issued by the trial court and Michigan Court of Appeals in litigation between the County of Wayne and former Wayne County Probate Court Judge and Wayne County retiree David Szymanski, *Szymanski v Wayne County*, Michigan Court of Appeals Case No. 366882 (April 25, 2024), and

WHEREAS, in *Szymanski*, the Michigan Court of Appeals affirmed the ruling issued by Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Brian Sullivan in which Judge Sullivan found that Mr. Szymanski's tenure as a Probate Court Judge did not qualify as "county service" under the Amann Resolution and therefore he did not qualify for retiree healthcare benefits, and

WHEREAS, relying on the reasoning in a prior unpublished Court of Appeals opinion, the Court of Appeals held that Mr. Szymanski's "tenure as a probate court judge does not qualify as "county service" under the Amann Resolution because probate court judges are state employees," and

WHEREAS, by letter dated May 31, 2024, in light of the Michigan Court of Appeals' holding in *Szymanski*, the Retirement System requested a legal opinion concerning the calculation of Mr. Szymanski's pension benefits from Corporation counsel, and

WHEREAS, the Retirement System requested guidance from Corporation Counsel on whether Mr. Szymanski's pension benefits were properly calculated considering the Court's ruling discussed above, that his time with the Probate Court "does not qualify as 'county service,'" and

WHEREAS, Mr. Szymanski is currently in receipt of a pension calculated using all of his service as a probate court judge and as a Wayne County employee, and

WHEREAS, combined, Mr. Szymanski retired with approximately 25 years and 8 months of service credit and his benefit was calculated in accordance with the County's Defined Benefit Plan 1 using a 2.65 multiplier and using a final average compensation of \$150,475.49, based on his service credit, resulting in an annual pension from the Retirement System of approximately \$81,264.60 per year, and

WHEREAS, Corporation Counsel provided a legal opinion, dated August 19, 2025, concerning "David Szymanski's WCERS' Retirement Overpayments," which was discussed in closed session at the Retirement Commission's August 25, 2025, regular meeting, and

WHEREAS, Corporation Counsel determined that Mr. Szymanski's pension was incorrectly calculated and exceeded the limit contained in the Judges Retirement Act, specifically MCL 38.2504(3), and the Charter Counties Act, specifically MCL 46.12a(24), and

WHEREAS, Corporation Counsel opined that those provisions expressly limit a Probate Judge's applicable average final compensation (AFC) to calculate his Probate Court pension not to exceed to his combined State/County salary at the time of his completion of service as a Probate Court Judge, and

WHEREAS, Corporation Counsel further opined that instead of applying of Mr. Szymanski's Judge's Retirement System certified \$43,474 AFC to his Probate Court service in 2015 when he commenced receipt of a pension from the Retirement System, the Retirement System calculated his Probate Court benefit using his County AFC of \$150,475.49, an amount that exceeded the statutory maximum local AFC by \$107,001.49 (\$150,475.49 - \$43,474.00), and

WHEREAS, Corporation Counsel ultimately explained that, had Mr. Szymanski's pension been calculated in using the limits described above, his annual pension would be reduced to approximately \$36,180.36 per year, and

WHEREAS, accordingly, Corporation Counsel recommended that the Retirement System promptly reduce Mr. Szymanski's pension to conform with state law, and

WHEREAS, the Retirement System is currently reviewing the overpayments made to Mr. Szymanski and determining the appropriate next steps, and

WHEREAS, the Retirement Commission has a fiduciary duty to pay pension benefits as provided by State law, the Retirement Ordinance and applicable collective bargaining agreements and is required, pursuant to Sec. 141-41 of the Retirement Ordinance, to correct errors in the records and actions of the Retirement System, therefore be it

RESOLVED, by the Wayne County Employees' Retirement Commission, to Accept the legal opinion from Corporation Counsel dated August 19, 2025, concerning "David Szymanski's WCERS' Retirement Overpayments," and further

RESOLVED, by the Wayne County Employees' Retirement Commission, to Direct staff reduce Mr. Szymanski's annual pension to \$36,180.36 effective November 1, 2025, and further

RESOLVED, by the Wayne County Employees' Retirement Commission, to Direct staff to notify Mr. Szymanski and provide him with an opportunity to appeal the decision in accordance with the Retirement Ordinance and Retirement System Policy, and further

RESOLVED, by the Wayne County Employees' Retirement Commission, to Direct staff to work with Corporation Counsel and VMT Law to continue to review the overpayments made to Mr. Szymanski and provide recommended next steps, and further

RESOLVED, by the Wayne County Employees' Retirement Commission, to Direct staff to work with Corporation Counsel and VMT Law to review other current and former judges to determine whether their benefits were properly calculated and report back to the Retirement Commission, and further

RESOLVED, by the Wayne County Employees' Retirement Commission, to Direct Corporation Counsel to provide a legal opinion on the calculation of any other similarly situated judges.

The motion was supported by Mr. Tom Yee and carried unanimously 7-0.

7. Consideration of meeting minutes for the closed session(s) of July 28, 2025 and August 8, 2025.

M.C.L. 15.267(2) permits a Public Body to discuss closed session minutes that are not available to the public, noting that a roll call, is required for this motion.

Ms. Bell moved the adoption of the following resolution:

RESOLVED, by the Wayne County Employees' Retirement Commission, to Waive the reading of the minutes and Approve the closed session(s) of July 28, 2025 and August 8, 2025.

The motion was supported by Ms. Misuraca and carried unanimously 7-0.

15. Consideration of a confidential legal report from VMT Law, P.C.

M.C.L.A. 15.243(1)(g), which permits a Public Body to discuss matters in closed session that are subject to Attorney-Client Privilege, noting that a roll call, is required for this motion.

Mr. Simone moved the adoption of the following resolution:

RESOLVED, by the Wayne County Employees' Retirement Commission, to Receive and File the confidential legal report from VMT Law, P.C.

The motion was supported by Ms. Misuraca and carried unanimously 7-0.

10. Consideration of a status update from Titan Wealth Advisors.

Mr. Ron Yee moved the adoption of the following resolution:

RESOLVED, by the Wayne County Employees' Retirement Commission, to Receive and File the verbal status update from Titan Wealth Advisors.

The motion was supported by Mr. Tom Yee and carried unanimously 7-0.

11. Consideration of a recommendation from Titan Wealth Advisors regarding ABS Global Investments, and their Late Stage Venture Capital Fund named ABS Global Pre-IPO LP.

Mr. Tom Yee moved the adoption of the following resolution:

RESOLVED, by the Wayne County Employees' Retirement Commission, to Accept the report from Titan Wealth Advisors regarding ABS Global Investments, and their Late Stage Venture Capital Fund named ABS Global Pre-IPO LP; and further

RESOLVED, by the Wayne County Employees' Retirement Commission, to Approve the recommendation from Titan Wealth Advisors regarding a \$10,000,000 investment in the ABS Global Pre-IPO LP Fund.

The motion was supported by Ms. Misuraca and carried unanimously 7-0.

12. Consideration of a legal report from VMT Law, P.C. regarding ABS Global Investments, and their Late Stage Venture Capital Fund named ABS Global Pre-IPO LP.

Mr. Tom Yee moved the adoption of the following resolution:

RESOLVED, by the Wayne County Employees' Retirement Commission, to Accept the legal report from VMT Law, P.C. regarding ABS Global Investments, and their Late Stage Venture Capital Fund named ABS Global Pre-IPO LP.

The motion was supported by Mr. Ron Yee and carried unanimously 7-0.

13. Consideration of approval and authorization regarding ABS Global Investments, and their Late Stage Venture Capital Fund named ABS Global Pre-IPO LP.

Mr. Simone moved the adoption of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Wayne County Employees' Retirement Commission (the "Retirement Commission") is vested with the authority for the general administration, management and operation of the Wayne County Employees' Retirement System (the "Retirement System") and has the fiduciary responsibility to invest Retirement System assets, and

WHEREAS, the Retirement Commission, in consultation with its Investment Consultant, has recently reviewed the Retirement System's investment portfolio and asset allocation in light of: (1) the portfolio's historical performance; (2) recent changes in the economic and financial market conditions; and (3) the Retirement Commission's goal of maximizing future gains without overly increasing risk or volatility in the portfolio, and

WHEREAS, in light of the foregoing and upon consultation with its Investment Consultant, Titan Wealth Advisors, the Retirement Commission desires to make changes to its investment managers and the overall structure of its current investment portfolio, and

WHEREAS, the Retirement Commission's Investment Consultant, consistent with its role as an investment fiduciary to the Retirement System, has conducted an investment manager search and has presented the Retirement Commission with a detailed report and recommendation of a prospective investment manager in the Late Stage Venture Capital strategy for the Retirement Commission's consideration, and

WHEREAS, the Retirement Commission has reviewed and discussed the prospective investment manager, ABS Global Investments, and investment opportunity with its Investment Consultant, and

WHEREAS, upon the recommendation of its Investment Consultant and the completion of its due diligence, the Retirement Commission desires to retain ABS Global Investments as an Investment Manager, therefore be it

RESOLVED, by the Wayne County Employees' Retirement Commission, that ABS Global Investments is hereby appointed as an Investment Manager to the Retirement System, to manage a Late Stage Venture Capital strategy via the Retirement System's investment of \$10 million in ABS Global Investments' ABS Global Pre-IPO LP Fund, and further

RESOLVED, that the Retirement Commission's Investment Consultant is hereby directed to coordinate the reallocation of the Retirement System's assets and to ensure that the reallocation is consistent with the Retirement Commission's directions and investment guidelines, and further

RESOLVED, that to the extent necessary, the Retirement Commission hereby directs its Custodial Bank to open an account for its assets to be managed by ABS Global Investments, and further

RESOLVED, that a copy of the Resolution be forwarded to the Retirement System's Custodial Bank, ABS Global Investments and the Retirement Commission's Investment Consultant, and further

RESOLVED, to Authorize the Chair or Vice-Chair to execute the agreement.

The motion was supported by Ms. Misuraca and carried unanimously 7-0.

Henry Wilson exited the meeting for the day at 11:34 AM.

8. Consideration of the July flash report on the Defined Benefit Plan from Titan Wealth Advisors.

Mr. Tom Yee moved the adoption of the following resolution:

RESOLVED, by the Wayne County Employees' Retirement Commission, to Accept the July flash report on the Defined Benefit Plan from Titan Wealth Advisors.

The motion was supported by Ms. Misuraca and carried unanimously 6-0.

9. Consideration of quarterly update on the Defined Benefit Plan from Titan Wealth Advisors.

Mr. Ron Yee moved the adoption of the following resolution:

RESOLVED, by the Wayne County Employees' Retirement System to Accept the quarterly update on the Defined Benefit Plan from Titan Wealth Advisors.

The motion was supported by Mr. Tom Yee and carried unanimously 6-0.

14. Consideration of a verbal report from Committee Chair, Denis Martin regarding the Audit Committee meeting of August 25, 2025.

Mr. Martin moved the adoption of the following resolution:

RESOLVED, by the Wayne County Employees' Retirement Commission, to Accept the verbal report from Committee Chair, Denis Martin, regarding the Audit Committee meeting of August 25, 2025.

The motion was supported by Ms. Misuraca and carried unanimously 6-0.

16. Public Comment.

Kathleen Colin addressed the Retirement Commission.

17. Reconsiderations.

None.

18. Such Other Matters.

None.

19. Adjournment.

Mr. Ron Yee moved to adjourn the meeting.

The motion was supported by Mr. Tom Yee and carried unanimously 6-0.

There being no further business to come before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 12:27 PM subject to the call of the Vice-Chair.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert Grden, Executive Director
Wayne County Employees' Retirement System