

**SONOMA COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT BOARD
DISABILITY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Thursday, February 16, 2023
8:35 a.m.

In accordance with Retirement Board Resolution #156, adopted on September 23, 2021 and effective January 26, 2023, the Sonoma County Employees' Retirement Association Disability Committee meeting was held virtually and in compliance with California Government Code section 54953(e).

Members of the public were able to watch or listen to the meeting using one of the two following methods:

1. By joining the WebEx meeting application on a computer, tablet or smartphone:

<https://sonomacounty.webex.com/sonomacounty/j.php?MTID=m908f96e553a12de36f880bfc6acb360e>

2. By calling in and listening to the meeting:

Dial 1-408-418-9388

Enter meeting ID: 2487 121 7238

Enter password: 02162023

Public comments were solicited prior to the meeting by emailing Jackie.Purter@sonoma-county.org by 7:30 am February 16, 2023. Members of the public who joined the WebEx meeting, either through the WebEx app or by calling in, were able to provide live public comment for each agenda item, after the Board and staff provided their comments.

Presiding: Chair Brian Williams.

Present: Trustees Travis Balzarini, Joe Tambe, and Bob Williamson; Chief Executive Officer Julie Wyne; Assistant Chief Executive Officer/Chief Legal Counsel Cristina Hess; Member Services Manager Jackie Purter; and Administrative Aide Julia Smith.

Present Via
WebEx: Alternate Retiree Trustee Neil Baker.

Public Via
WebEx: Ruben Martinez; Karina Delzell.

I. MINUTES APPROVAL

Approval of the January 19, 2023 Minutes.

Motion was made by Trustee Williamson, seconded by Trustee Balzarini to approve the January 19, 2023 Disability Committee Meeting Minutes. The motion carried 5-0-0-0 with voting as follows:

Mr. Baker	Aye
Mr. Balzarini	Aye
Mr. Tambe	Aye
Mr. Williams	Aye
Mr. Williamson	Aye

The Disability Committee moved into Executive Session and closed the meeting to all attendees who were not necessary for the determination of a disability retirement. While the meeting was closed, those attendees were placed into the WebEx lobby by the WebEx host and did not hear or see the meeting. The WebEx screen indicated that the attendees were in the lobby and those still present were re-connected to the meeting once the Board returned to open session.

II. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Committee met in closed session pursuant to Government Code section 54957(b) to consider the employment status and evaluation of performance of SCERA members as concerns eligibility for disability retirement and reinstatement to active membership.

A. Applications for Committee Action:

1. RUBEN MARTINEZ, Lieutenant filed 06/02/22 for a service connected disability retirement.

Motion was made by Trustee Tambe and seconded by Trustee Williamson to recommend that Mr. Martinez be denied a service connected disability retirement. The motion carried 5-0-0-0 with voting as follows:

Mr. Baker	Aye
Mr. Balzarini	Aye
Mr. Tambe	Aye
Mr. Williams	Aye
Mr. Williamson	Aye

II. EXECUTIVE SESSION, continued

A. Applications for Committee Action, continued:

2. MAUREEN SHABAZZ, general member who retired effective 06/20/18 with a service retirement. On December 22, 2022, Ms. Shabazz submitted a request that her retirement be suspended and that she be reinstated per Government Code section 31680.4. She has been offered the position of a Behavioral Health Clinician Associate with the County of Sonoma.

Motion was made by Trustee Williamson and seconded by Trustee Tambe to recommend that Ms. Shabazz's retirement benefit be suspended and that she be reinstated as an active member in the retirement association pursuant to Government Code Section 31680.4. The motion carried 5-0-0-0. With voting as follows:

Mr. Baker	Aye
Mr. Balzarini	Aye
Mr. Tambe	Aye
Mr. Williams	Aye
Mr. Williamson	Aye

B. Discussion:

Reviewed the February 2023 Disability Report.

The Disability Committee moved out of Executive Session and reopened the meeting to all WebEx attendees who were placed in the lobby during the closed session period.

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION REPORT OUT – OPEN SESSION

Committee Chair Brian Williams reported out in open session that the Committee unanimously recommended to deny a service connected disability retirement to Lieutenant Ruben Martinez; and to grant Retiree Maureen Shabazz's request to suspend her service retirement and to return to work as an active member with the County of Sonoma.

V. GENERAL DISCUSSION MATTERS

There were no general discussion matters.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

VII. NEXT MEETING

Scheduled for Thursday, March 23, 2023 at 8:30 a.m. in the SCERA Board Room located at 433 Aviation Boulevard, Suite 100 in Santa Rosa, CA or virtually via WebEx.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 8:58 a.m.

IX. APPROVAL

The above minutes for the Disability Committee meeting on February 16, 2023 were approved at the Disability Committee meeting on March 23, 2023.

BRIAN WILLIAMS, CHAIR