

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

Thursday, February 20, 2025
8:32 a.m.

Presiding: Chair Bob Williamson.

Present: Trustees Amos Eaton, Jared, Gonce, and Joe Tambe; Alternate Retiree Trustee Neil Baker; Chief Executive Officer Julie Wyne; Assistant Chief Executive Officer/Chief Legal Counsel Cristina Hess; and Retirement Analyst Rebecca Gay.

Public comments were solicited prior to the meeting by emailing Cristina.Hess@sonoma-county.org. Members of the public who joined the Zoom meeting via the Zoom app or by calling in, were able to provide live public comment for each agenda item, after the Board and staff provided their comments.

I. MINUTES APPROVAL

Approval of the January 23, 2025 Minutes.

Motion was made by Trustee Baker, seconded by Trustee Tambe to approve the January 23, 2025 Disability Committee Meeting Minutes. The motion carried 5-0-0-0 with voting as follows:

Mr. Baker	Aye
Mr. Eaton	Aye
Mr. Gonce	Aye
Mr. Tambe	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, the attendees were locked out. 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. MICHAEL DIETRICK, Deputy Sheriff II filed 09/14/23 for a service connected disability retirement.

Motion was made by Trustee Baker and seconded by Trustee Gonce to recommend that Mr. Dietrick be granted a service connected disability retirement. The motion carried 5-0-0-0 with voting as follows:

Mr. Baker	Aye
Mr. Eaton	Aye
Mr. Gonce	Aye
Mr. Tambe	Aye
Mr. Williamson	Aye

2. RYAN RUSSELL, Sergeant filed 07/22/24 for a service connected disability retirement.

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

Mr. Baker	Aye
Mr. Eaton	Aye
Mr. Gonce	Aye
Mr. Tambe	Aye
Mr. Williamson	Aye

3. DONALD HUDDLESTON, Correctional Lieutenant filed 10/31/24 for a service connected disability retirement.

Motion was made by Trustee Baker and seconded by Trustee Gonce to recommend that Mr. Huddleston be granted a service connected disability retirement. The motion carried 5-0-0-0 with voting as follows:

Mr. Baker	Aye
Mr. Eaton	Aye
Mr. Gonce	Aye
Mr. Tambe	Aye
Mr. Williamson	Aye

B. Proposed Decision:

ROWAN SHINOHARA TAYLOR, Deputy Sheriff II filed 10/12/22 for a service connected disability retirement. On 05/18/23 the Retirement Board denied the application for a service connected disability as applicant is not considered permanently incapacitated.

Motion was made by Trustee Tambe and seconded by Trustee Baker pursuant to Government Code section 31534 to recommend adopting the Administrative Law Judge's proposed decision to deny Mr. Shinohara Taylor a service connected disability application.

The motion carried 5-0-0-0 with voting as follows:

Mr. Baker	Aye
Mr. Eaton	Aye
Mr. Gonce	Aye
Mr. Tambe	Aye
Mr. Williamson	Aye

C. Discussion:

Reviewed the February 2025 Disability Report.

The Disability Committee moved out of Executive Session and reopened the meeting to all Zoom attendees who were locked out of the meeting during the closed session period.

III. EXECUTIVE SESSION REPORT OUT – OPEN SESSION

Committee Chair Bob Williamson reported out in open session that the Committee voted unanimously to recommend granting a service connected disability retirement to Deputy Sheriff II Michael Dietrick, Sergeant Ryan Russell and Lieutenant Donald Huddleston. The Committee voted unanimously to recommend adopting the Hearing Officer's Proposed Decision to deny Deputy Sheriff II Rowan Shinohara Taylor a service connected disability retirement.

IV. GENERAL DISCUSSION MATTERS

There were no general discussion matters.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

VI. NEXT MEETING

Scheduled for Thursday, March 20, 2025 at 8:30 a.m. in the SCERA Board Room located at 433 Aviation Boulevard, Suite 100 in Santa Rosa, CA.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 9:12 a.m.

VIII. APPROVAL

The above minutes for the Disability Committee meeting on February 20, 2025 were approved at the Disability Committee meeting on March 20, 2025.

BOB WILLIAMSON, CHAIR