

CITY OF GULFPORT GENERAL EMPLOYEES' PENSION PLAN

Investment Policy Statement

I. PURPOSE OF INVESTMENT POLICY STATEMENT

The Pension Board of Trustees (the Board) maintains that an important determinant of future investment returns is the expression and periodic review of the City of Gulfport General Employees' Pension Plan (the Plan) investment objectives. To that end, the Board has adopted this statement of Investment Policy and directs that it apply to all assets under their control.

In fulfilling their fiduciary responsibility, the Board recognizes that the Plan is an essential vehicle for providing income benefits to retired participants or their beneficiaries. The Board also recognizes that the obligations of the Plan are long-term and that investment policy should be made with a view toward performance and return over a number of years. The general investment objective is to obtain a reasonable total rate of return - defined as interest and dividend income plus realized and unrealized capital gains or losses - commensurate with the Prudent Investor Rule and any other applicable ordinances and statutes.

Reasonable consistency of return and protection of assets against the inroads of inflation are paramount. However, interest rate fluctuations and volatility of securities markets make it necessary to judge results within the context of several years rather than over short periods of five years or less.

The Board will employ investment professionals to oversee and invest the assets of the Plan. Within the parameters allowed in this document and their agreements with the Board, the investment management professionals shall have investment discretion over their mandates, including security selection, sector weightings and investment style.

The Board, in performing their investment duties, shall comply with the fiduciary standards set forth in Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) at 29 U.S.C. s. 1104(a) (1) (A) – (C). In case of conflict with other provisions of law authorizing investments, the investment and fiduciary standards set forth in this section shall prevail.

II. TARGET ALLOCATIONS

In order to provide for a diversified portfolio, the Board has engaged investment professional(s) to manage and administer the fund. The Investment Managers are responsible for the assets and allocation of their mandate only and may be provided an addendum to this policy with their specific performance objectives and investment criteria. The Board has established the following asset allocation targets for the total fund:

Asset Class	Target	Range	Benchmark Index
Equity			
Domestic Equity	40%	35% - 45%	Russell 3000
International Equity	10%	5% - 15%	MSCI ACWI ex US
Fixed Income			
Domestic Fixed Income	30%	25% - 35%	Bloomberg Barclays US Aggregate
Global Fixed Income*	5%	0% - 10%	Bloomberg Barclays Global Aggregate
Real Estate			
Direct Real Estate**	5%	0% - 10%	NFI ODCE (EW)
REITs	5%	0% - 10%	Vanguard Spliced REIT Index
Alternatives			
GTAA	5%	0% - 10%	CPI plus 5%

*Targets and ranges above are based on market value of total Plan assets. *If no portion of the portfolio is allocated to "Global Fixed Income", the target and range for "Domestic Fixed Income" will increase by 5% and Section III below will be adjusted accordingly. **If no portion of the portfolio is allocated to Direct Real Estate, the target and range for "Domestic Fixed Income" will increase by 5% and Section III below will be adjusted accordingly.*

The Board will monitor the aggregate asset allocation of the portfolio, and will rebalance to the target asset allocation based on market conditions. If at the end of any calendar quarter, the allocation of an asset class falls outside of its allowable range, barring extenuating circumstances such as pending cash flows or allocation levels viewed as temporary, the asset allocation will be rebalanced into the allowable range. To the extent possible, contributions and withdrawals from the portfolio will be executed proportionally based on the most current market values available and with reasonable notice provided to the Investment Managers. The Board does not intend to exercise short-term changes to the target allocation.

III. INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES

The following performance measures will be used as objective criteria for evaluating the effectiveness of the Investment Managers.

A. Total Portfolio Performance

1. The performance of the total portfolio will be measured for rolling three (3) and five (5) year periods. The performance of the portfolio will be compared to the return of the policy indexes comprised of 40% Russell 3000 Index, 10% MSCI All Country World Index ex. U.S., 30% Bloomberg Barclays Capital U.S. Aggregate Bond Index, 5% Bloomberg Barclays Global Aggregate Index, 5% NFI ODCE (EW), 5% Vanguard Spliced REIT Index and 5% CPI plus 5%.

2. On a relative basis, it is expected that the total portfolio performance will rank in the top 50th percentile of the appropriate peer universe over three (3) and five (5) year time periods.
3. On an absolute basis, the objective is that the net return of the total portfolio will equal or exceed the actuarial earnings assumption, and provide inflation protection by meeting Consumer Price Index plus 3%. This absolute return objective will be evaluated in the context of the prevailing market conditions.

B. Equity Performance

The combined equity portion of the portfolio, defined as common stocks and convertible bonds, is expected to perform at a rate at least equal to the 80% Russell 3000 Index and 20% MSCI All Country World Index ex. U.S. Individual components of the equity portfolio will be compared to the specific benchmarks defined in each Investment Manager addendum. All portfolios are expected to rank in the top 50th percentile of the appropriate peer universe over three (3) and five (5) year time periods.

C. Fixed Income Performance

The overall objective of the fixed income portion of the portfolio is to add stability and liquidity to the total portfolio. The fixed income portion of the portfolio is expected to perform at a rate at least equal to the 85% Bloomberg Barclays Capital U.S. Aggregate Bond Index and 15% Bloomberg Barclays Capital Global Aggregate Index. All portfolios are expected to rank in the top 50th percentile of the appropriate peer universe over three (3) and five (5) year time periods.

D. Real Estate Performance

The overall objective of the real estate portion of the portfolio is to add diversification and another stable income stream to the total fund. The real estate portion of the portfolio, defined as publicly traded or private REITs, is expected to perform at a rate at least equal to 50% Vanguard Spliced REIT Index and 50% NFI ODCE (EW).

E. Alternatives Performance

The overall objective of the alternative portion of the portfolio is to add diversification by utilizing products that have low correlation to conventional asset classes. The total alternative asset portion of the portfolio is expected to perform at a rate at least equal to CPI plus 5% over three (3) and five (5) year time periods.

IV. INVESTMENT GUIDELINES

- A. All monies paid into or held in the fund shall be invested and reinvested in such securities or property wherever situated and whatever kind, as shall be approved by the board, including but not limited to stocks, common or preferred, bonds, other evidences of indebtedness or ownership, and mutual funds, but there shall be no direct investment in the following:

1. Margin purchases.
2. Commodities.
3. Calls or straddles (not including covered call options).
4. Warrants or other options, except as part of another security.
5. Venture capital.
6. Any investment prohibited by state or federal law.
7. Bonds which are rated less than "A" by Standard & Poor's and Moody's.
8. Real property or real estate.

B. Limitations

1. The Board and its Investment Managers shall comply with the applicable requirements of Chapter 2023-28, Laws of Florida, including Section 112.662, along with regulations adopted by the Department of Management Services. The term "pecuniary factor" is defined as a factor that a named fiduciary "prudently determines is expected to have a material effect on the risk or returns of an investment based on appropriate investment horizons consistent with the investment objectives and funding policy of the investment program. The term does not include the consideration of the furtherance of any social, political, or ideological interests." [112.662(1)]. In selecting Investment Managers, only pecuniary factors may be considered and the interests of the participants and beneficiaries of the system may not be subordinated to other objectives, including sacrificing investment return or undertaking additional investment risk to promote any nonpecuniary factor. The weight given to any pecuniary factor must appropriately reflect a prudent assessment of its impact on risk or returns. [112.662(2)]. Only pecuniary factors may be considered when voting proxies. [112.662(3)]

C. Absolute Restrictions

No investments shall be permitted in:

1. Any investment not specifically allowed as part of this policy.
2. Illiquid investments, as described in Chapter 215.47, Florida Statutes.
3. Direct investment in 'Scrutinized Companies' identified in the periodic publication by the State Board of Administration ("SBA list", updated on their website www.sbafla.com/fsb/), is prohibited. Securities identified after January 1, 2010, must be divested within twelve (12) months of the company's initial appearance on the list. However, if divestiture of business activities is accomplished and the company is subsequently removed from the SBA list, the manager can continue to hold that security. Indirect investment in

'Scrutinized Companies' (through pooled funds) are governed by the provisions of Section V. (G) below.

V. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. On a monthly basis, the Custodian shall supply an accounting statement that will include a summary of all receipts and disbursements and the cost and the market value of all assets.
- B. On a quarterly basis, the Investment Managers shall provide a written report affirming compliance with the security restrictions of Section IV (as well as any provisions outlined in the Investment Manager's addendum). In addition, the Investment Managers shall deliver a report each quarter detailing the Plan's performance, forecast of the market and economy, portfolio analysis and current assets of the Plan. Written reports shall be delivered to the Board within 30 days of the end of the quarter. A copy of the written report shall be submitted to the person designated by the City, and shall be available for public inspection. The Investment Managers will provide immediate written and telephone notice to the Board of any significant market related or non-market related event, specifically including, but not limited to, any deviation from the standards set forth in Section IV or their Investment Manager addendum.
- C. If an Investment Manager owns investments, that complied with section IV at the time of purchase, which subsequently exceed the applicable limit or do not satisfy the applicable investment standard, such excess or noncompliant investments may be continued until it is economically feasible to dispose of such investment in accordance with the prudent man standard of care, but no additional investment may be made unless authorized by law or ordinance. In addition, an action plan outlining the investment 'hold or sell' strategy shall be provided to the Board immediately.
- D. The Investment Consultant shall evaluate and report on a quarterly basis the rate of return net of investment fees and relative performance of the Plan.
- E. The Board will meet periodically to review the Investment Consultant performance report. The Board will meet with the Investment Manager and appropriate outside consultants to discuss performance results, economic outlook, investment strategy and tactics and other pertinent matters affecting the Plan on a periodic basis.
- F. At least annually, the Board shall provide the Investment Managers with projected disbursement needs of the Plan so that the investment portfolio can be structured in such a manner as to provide sufficient liquidity to pay obligations as they come due. To this end the Investment Managers should, to the extent possible, attempt to match investment maturities with known cash needs and anticipated cash-flow requirements.
- G. The Investment Consultant, on behalf of the Plan, shall send a letter to any pooled fund referring the investment manager to the listing of 'Scrutinized Companies' by the State Board of Administration ('SBA list'), on their website www.sbafla.com/fsb/. This letter shall request that they consider removing such companies from the fund or create a similar actively managed fund having indirect holdings devoid of such companies. If the manager creates a similar fund, the Plan shall

replace all applicable investments with investments in the similar fund in an expedited timeframe consistent with prudent investing standards. For the purposes of this section, a private equity fund is deemed to be an actively managed investment fund. However, after sending the required correspondence, the Plan is not required to sell the pooled fund.

- H. The Board shall timely comply with the reporting requirement of Section 112.662 by filing a comprehensive report by December 15 of each odd-numbered year. [112.662(4)]. Investment managers and the Board's Investment Consultant shall assist in the preparation of required reports and shall annually confirm to the Board their compliance with Chapter 2023-28.

VI. COMPLIANCE

- A. It is the direction of the Board that the Plan assets are held by a third party Custodian, and that all securities purchased by, and all collateral obtained by the Plan shall be properly designated as Plan assets. No withdrawal of assets, in whole or in part, shall be made from safekeeping except by an authorized member of the Board or their designee. Securities transactions between a broker-dealer and the Custodian involving purchase or sale of securities by transfer of money or securities must be made on a "delivery vs. payment" basis to insure that the Custodian will have the security or money in hand at conclusion of the transaction.
- B. The investment policy shall require all approved institutions and dealers transacting repurchase agreements to execute and perform as stated in the Master Repurchase Agreement. All repurchase agreement transactions shall adhere to the requirements of the Master Repurchase Agreement.
- C. At the direction of the Board operations of the Plan shall be reviewed by independent certified public accountants as part of any financial audit periodically required. Compliance with the Board's internal controls shall be verified. These controls have been designed to prevent losses of assets that might arise from fraud, error, or misrepresentation by third parties or imprudent actions by the Board or employees of the Plan sponsor, to the extent possible.
- D. Each member of the Board shall participate in a continuing education program relating to investments and the Board's responsibilities to the Plan. It is suggested that this education process begin during each Board member's first term.
- E. With each actuarial valuation, the Board shall determine the total expected annual rate of return for the current year, for each of the next several years and for the long term thereafter. This determination shall be filed promptly with the Department of Management Services, the Plan's sponsor and the consulting actuary.
- F. The proxy votes must be exercised for the exclusive benefit of the participants of the Plan. Each Investment Manager shall provide the Board with a copy of their proxy voting policy for approval. On a regular basis, at least annually, each manager shall report a record of their proxy vote.
- G. The Investment Consultant will provide Investment Managers for consideration based solely on pecuniary factors as defined by Florida Statutes §112.662.

- H. If a Request for Proposals document is issued for Investment Manager services, the solicitation document must include the following: The Board of Trustees may not request documentation of or consider a vendor's social, political, or ideological interests when determining if the vendor is a responsible vendor. Additionally, the Board of Trustees may not give preference to a vendor based on vendor's social, political, or ideological interests.

VII. CRITERIA FOR INVESTMENT MANAGER REVIEW

The Board wishes to adopt standards by which judgments of the ongoing performance of an Investment Manager may be made. If, at any time, any three (3) of the following is breached, the Investment Manager may be warned of the Board's serious concern for the Plan's continued safety and performance. If any five (5) of these are violated the Investment Consultant may recommend an Investment Manager evaluation for that mandate.

- Four (4) consecutive quarters of relative under-performance versus the benchmark.
- Three (3) year trailing return below the top 50th percentile within the appropriate peer group and under performance versus the benchmark.
- Five (5) year trailing return below the top 50th percentile and under performance versus the benchmark.
- Three (3) year downside volatility greater than the index (greater than 100), as measured by down market capture ratio.
- Five (5) year downside volatility greater than the index (greater than 100), as measured by down market capture ratio.
- Style consistency or purity drift from the mandate.
- Management turnover in portfolio team or senior management.
- Investment process change, including varying the index or benchmark.
- Failure to adhere to the Investment Policy Statement, Investment Manager Addendum or other compliance issues.
- Investigation of the firm by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) or other regulatory agency.
- Significant asset flows into or out of the company or strategy.
- Merger or sale of firm.
- Fee increases outside of the competitive range.
- Servicing issues – key personnel stop servicing the account without proper notification.
- Failure to attain a 60% vote of confidence by the Board.

Nothing in this section shall limit or diminish the Board's right to terminate the Investment Manager at any time for any reason.

VIII. APPLICABLE CITY ORDINANCES

If at any time this document is found to be in conflict with the City Ordinances or applicable Florida Statutes, the Ordinances and Statutes shall prevail.

IX. REVIEW AND AMENDMENTS

It is the Board's intention to review this document at least annually subsequent to the actuarial report and to amend this statement to reflect any changes in philosophy, objectives, or guidelines. In this regard, the Investment Manager's interest in consistency in these matters is recognized and will be taken into account when changes are being considered. If, at any time, the Investment Manager feels that the specific objectives defined herein cannot be met, or the guidelines constrict performance, the Board should be notified in writing. By initialing and continuing acceptance of this Investment Policy Statement, the Investment Managers concur with the provisions of this document. By signing this document, the Chairman attests that this policy has been recommended by the Investment Consultant, reviewed by the Plan's legal counsel for compliance with applicable law, and approved by the Board.

X. FILING OF THE INVESTMENT POLICY

Upon adoption by the Board, the Investment Policy Statement shall be promptly filed with the Florida Department of Management Services, the City, and the Plan's actuary. The effective date of the Investment Policy Statement shall be the 31 days following the filing date with the City.

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Chairman, Board of Trustees

7.21.23
Date