

COMPLIANCE AUDIT

Northern Regional Non-Uniformed Pension Plan Allegheny County, Pennsylvania For the Period January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2015

September 2016



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Department of the Auditor General

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AUDITOR GENERAL

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Northern Regional Police Department
Allegheny County
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We have conducted a compliance audit of the Northern Regional Non-Uniformed Pension Plan for the period January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2015. We also evaluated compliance with some requirements subsequent to that period when possible. The audit was conducted pursuant to authority derived from Section 402(j) of Act 205 and in accordance with the standards applicable to performance audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain sufficient, appropriate evidence to provide a reasonable basis for our conclusions based on our audit objective. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our conclusions based on our audit objective.

The objective of the audit was to determine if the pension plan was administered in compliance with applicable state laws, regulations, contracts, administrative procedures, and local ordinances and policies.

Our audit was limited to the areas related to the objective identified above. To determine whether the pension plan was administered in compliance with applicable state laws, regulations, contracts, administrative procedures, and local ordinances and policies, our methodology included the following:

- We determined whether state aid was properly determined and deposited in accordance with Act 205 requirements by verifying the annual deposit date of state aid and determining whether deposits were made within 30 days of receipt for all years within the period under audit. State aid allocations that were deposited into the pension plan for the years ended December 31, 2010 to December 31, 2015, are presented on the Summary of Deposited State Aid and Employer Contributions.

- We determined whether annual employer contributions were calculated and deposited in accordance with the plan's governing document and applicable laws and regulations by examining the municipality's calculation of the plan's annual financial requirements and minimum municipal obligation (MMO) and comparing these calculated amounts to amounts actually budgeted and deposited into the pension plan as evidenced by supporting documentation. Employer contributions that were deposited into the pension plan for the years ended December 31, 2010 to December 31, 2015, are presented on the Summary of Deposited State Aid and Employer Contributions.
- We determined whether annual employee contributions were calculated, deducted, and deposited into the pension plan in accordance with the plan's governing document and applicable laws and regulations by testing members' contributions on an annual basis using the rates obtained from the plan's governing document in effect for all years within the period under audit and examining documents evidencing the deposit of these employee contributions into the pension plan. We also tested individual employee contributions for all 3 active employees made during the audit period amounting to \$3,070 and \$2,818, for the years 2014 and 2015, respectively.
- We determined whether retirement benefits calculated for the 1 plan member who retired during the current audit period, represent payments to all (and only) those entitled to receive them and were properly determined and disbursed in accordance with the plan's governing document, applicable laws and regulations by comparing the distributed amounts to supporting documentation evidencing amounts determined and actually paid to the recipient.
- We determined whether the January 1, 2013 and the January 1, 2015 actuarial valuation reports were prepared and submitted to the Public Employee Retirement Commission (PERC) by March 31, 2014, and 2016 respectively, in accordance with Act 205 and whether selected information provided on these reports is accurate, complete, and in accordance with plan provisions to ensure compliance for participation in the state aid program by comparing selected information to supporting source documentation.

For the year 2014, the Northern Regional Joint Police Board contracted with an independent certified public accounting firm for an audit its basic financial statements which is available at the board's offices. Those financial statements were not audited by us and, accordingly, we express no opinion or other form of assurance on them.

Board officials are responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal controls to provide reasonable assurance that the Northern Regional Non-Uniformed Pension Plan is administered in compliance with applicable state laws, regulations, contracts, administrative procedures, and local ordinances and policies. In conducting our audit, we obtained an understanding of the board's internal controls as they relate to the board's compliance with those requirements and that we considered to be significant within the context of our audit objective,

and assessed whether those significant controls were properly designed and implemented. Additionally and as previously described, we tested transactions, assessed official actions, performed analytical procedures, and interviewed selected officials to provide reasonable assurance of detecting instances of noncompliance with legal and regulatory requirements or noncompliance with provisions of contracts, administrative procedures, and local ordinances and policies that are significant within the context of the audit objective.

The results of our procedures indicated that, in all significant respects, the Northern Regional Non-Uniformed Pension Plan was administered in compliance with applicable state laws, regulations, contracts, administrative procedures, and local ordinances and policies.

The contents of this report were discussed with officials of the Northern Regional Joint Police Board and, where appropriate, their responses have been included in the report. We would like to thank board officials for the cooperation extended to us during the conduct of the audit.

August 26, 2016



EUGENE A. DEPASQUALE
Auditor General

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BACKGROUND

On December 18, 1984, the Pennsylvania Legislature adopted the Municipal Pension Plan Funding Standard and Recovery Act (P.L. 1005, No. 205, as amended, 53 P.S. § 895.101 et seq.). The act established mandatory actuarial reporting and funding requirements and a uniform basis for the distribution of state aid to Pennsylvania's public pension plans. Section 402(j) of Act 205 specifically requires the Auditor General, as deemed necessary, to make an audit of every municipality which receives general municipal pension system state aid and of every municipal pension plan and fund in which general municipal pension system state aid is deposited.

Annual state aid allocations are provided from a 2 percent foreign (out-of-state) casualty insurance premium tax, a portion of the foreign (out-of-state) fire insurance tax designated for paid firefighters and any investment income earned on the collection of these taxes. Generally, municipal pension plans established prior to December 18, 1984, are eligible for state aid. For municipal pension plans established after that date, the sponsoring municipality must fund the plan for three plan years before it becomes eligible for state aid. In accordance with Act 205, a municipality's annual state aid allocation cannot exceed its actual pension costs.

In addition to Act 205, the Northern Regional Non-Uniformed Pension Plan is also governed by implementing regulations adopted by the Public Employee Retirement Commission published at Title 16, Part IV of the Pennsylvania Code and applicable provisions of various other state statutes.

The Northern Regional Non-Uniformed Pension Plan is a single-employer defined contribution pension plan locally controlled by the provisions of Resolution No. 2012-3, as amended. The plan was established January 1, 1993. Active members hired prior to January 1, 2012 are required to contribute 3.0 percent of gross compensation to the plan. Active members hired after January 1, 2012 are required to contribute 3.5 percent of gross compensation to the plan. For members hired prior to January 1, 2012, the board is required to contribute 7 percent of gross compensation. For members hired after January 1, 2012, the board is required to contribute 3.5 percent of gross compensation. As of December 31, 2015, the plan had 2 active members, 2 terminated members eligible for vested benefits in the future, and no retirees receiving monthly pension benefits.

NORTHERN REGIONAL NON-UNIFORMED PENSION PLAN
SUMMARY OF DEPOSITED STATE AID AND EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS

Year Ended December 31	State Aid	Employer Contributions
2010	\$ 4,952	\$ 731
2011	5,844	None
2012	4,959	None
2013	4,527	None
2014	5,196	None
2015	2,818	None

NORTHERN REGIONAL NON-UNIFORMED PENSION PLAN
REPORT DISTRIBUTION LIST

This report was initially distributed to the following:

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