



**BROWNSVILLE BOROUGH NON-UNIFORMED
PENSION PLAN**

FAYETTE COUNTY

COMPLIANCE AUDIT REPORT

FOR THE PERIOD

JANUARY 1, 2010, TO DECEMBER 31, 2012

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

EUGENE A. DEPASQUALE - AUDITOR GENERAL

DEPARTMENT OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL

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ABBREVIATION

ERISA - Employee Retirement Income Security Act

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 Brownsville Borough 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.

As further described in the Letter from the Auditor General included in this report, the borough's non-uniformed union employees participate in the Laborers Combined Funds of Western Pennsylvania Pension Plan. The Brownsville Borough Non-Uniformed Pension Plan is locally controlled by the provisions of collective bargaining agreement between the borough and its non-uniformed union employees. Active members are not required to contribute to the plan. The municipality was required to contribute \$2.95 per hour worked, per member for the year 2010, \$3.30 for the year 2011 and \$3.66 for the year 2012.



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EUGENE A. DePASQUALE
AUDITOR GENERAL

The Honorable Mayor and Borough Council
Brownsville Borough
Fayette County
Brownsville, PA 15417

We have conducted a compliance audit of the Brownsville Borough Non-Uniformed Pension Plan for the period January 1, 2010, to December 31, 2012. 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 our audit to obtain sufficient, appropriate evidence to provide a reasonable basis for our conclusions based on our audit objectives. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our conclusions based on our audit objectives.

The objectives of the audit were:

1. To determine if municipal officials took appropriate corrective action to address the finding contained in our prior audit report; and
2. 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 objectives identified above. Our methodology addressed determinations about the following:

- Whether state aid was properly determined and deposited in accordance with Act 205 requirements.
- Whether employer contributions are determined and deposited in accordance with the plan's governing document and applicable laws and regulations.
- Whether employee contributions are required and, if so, are determined, deducted and deposited into the pension plan and are in accordance with the plan provisions and applicable laws and regulations.

- Whether benefit payments, if any, represent payments to all (and only) those entitled to receive them and are properly determined in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.
- Whether obligations for plan benefits are accurately determined in accordance with plan provisions and based on complete and accurate participant data; and whether actuarial valuation reports are prepared and submitted to the Public Employee Retirement Commission (PERC) in accordance with state law and 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.
- Whether the provisions of the union pension plan agreement are in accordance with the plan's governing document and the collective bargaining agreement and that payments made to the multi-employer union pension plan are made in accordance with the collective bargaining agreement.

The borough's non-uniformed union employees participate in the Laborer's Combined Funds of Western Pennsylvania Pension Plan, a Taft-Hartley Act collectively bargained, jointly trustee, multi-employer pension plan, which is governed primarily by the Federal Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). ERISA provides for substantial federal government oversight of the operating and reporting practices of employee benefit plans subject to its provisions. Accordingly, the scope of our audit was restricted to the activities of the Brownsville Borough Non-Uniformed Pension Plan and did not extend to the activities of the multi-employer pension plan.

Borough officials are responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal controls to provide reasonable assurance that the Brownsville Borough 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 borough's internal controls as they relate to the borough's compliance with those requirements and that we considered to be significant within the context of our audit objectives, and assessed whether those significant controls were properly designed and implemented. Additionally, 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 objectives.

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

The accompanying supplementary information is presented for purposes of additional analysis. We did not audit the information or conclude on it and, accordingly, express no form of assurance on it.

The contents of this report were discussed with officials of Brownsville Borough and, where appropriate, their responses have been included in the report.



EUGENE A. DEPASQUALE
Auditor General

June 5, 2013

BROWNSVILLE BOROUGH NON-UNIFORMED PENSION PLAN
STATUS OF PRIOR FINDING

Compliance With Prior Audit Recommendation

Brownsville Borough has complied with the prior audit recommendation concerning the following:

- Incorrect Data On Certification Form AG 385 Resulting in An Overpayment Of State Aid

The borough reimbursed \$3,137 to the Commonwealth for the overpayment of state aid received in 2009.

BROWNSVILLE BOROUGH NON-UNIFORMED PENSION PLAN
 SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
 (UNAUDITED)

SCHEDULE OF STATE AID
 AND EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS

Year Ended December 31	State Aid Deposited	Employer Contributions
2007	\$ 13,684	None
2008	10,815	\$ 2,517
2009	7,002	5,321
2010	8,265	4,031
2011	13,728	None
2012	11,071	4,096

BROWNSVILLE BOROUGH NON-UNIFORMED PENSION PLAN
REPORT DISTRIBUTION LIST

This report was initially distributed to the following:

The Honorable Tom Corbett
Governor
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Brownsville Borough Non-Uniformed Pension Plan
Fayette County
200 Second Street
Brownsville, PA 15417

The Honorable Lester J. Ward	Mayor
Mr. Jack J. Lawver	Council President
Ms. Elizabeth Lawver	Borough Manager

This report is a matter of public record and is available online at www.auditorgen.state.pa.us. Media questions about the report can be directed to the Pennsylvania Department of the Auditor General, Office of Communications, 231 Finance Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120; via email to: news@auditorgen.state.pa.us.