

AVALON BOROUGH NONUNIFORMED PENSION PLAN

ALLEGHENY COUNTY

COMPLIANCE AUDIT REPORT

FOR THE PERIOD

JANUARY 1, 2008, TO DECEMBER 31, 2010



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CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Background.....	1
Letter from the Auditor General	3
Status of Prior Findings	5
Finding and Recommendation:	
Finding – Partial Compliance With Prior Audit Recommendation – Incorrect Data On Certification Form AG 385 Resulting In An Underpayment Of State Aid.....	6
Supplementary Information	7
Report Distribution List	11

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.

Pension plan aid is provided from a 2 percent foreign casualty insurance premium tax, a portion of the foreign 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 Avalon Borough Nonuniformed 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 Avalon Borough Nonuniformed Pension Plan is a single-employer defined benefit pension plan locally controlled by the provisions of Ordinance No. 1091, as amended. The plan is also affected by the provisions of collective bargaining agreements between the borough and its nonuniformed employees.



The Honorable Mayor and Borough Council
Avalon Borough
Allegheny County
Pittsburgh, PA 15202

We have conducted a compliance audit of the Avalon Borough Nonuniformed Pension Plan for the period January 1, 2008, to December 31, 2010. The audit was conducted pursuant to authority derived from Section 402(j) of Act 205 and in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* applicable to performance audits 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 finding and conclusions based on our audit objectives. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our finding and 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 findings 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. Avalon Borough contracted with an independent certified public accounting firm for annual audits of its basic financial statements which are available at the borough's offices. Those financial statements were not audited by us and, accordingly, we express no opinion or other form of assurance on them.

Borough officials are responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal controls to provide reasonable assurance that the Avalon Borough Nonuniformed 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 the extent necessary to satisfy the audit objectives.

The results of our tests indicated that, in all significant respects, the Avalon Borough Nonuniformed Pension Plan was administered in compliance with applicable state laws, regulations, contracts, administrative procedures, and local ordinances and policies, except as noted in the following finding further discussed later in this report:

Finding – Partial Compliance With Prior Audit Recommendation – Incorrect Data On Certification Form AG 385 Resulting In An Underpayment Of State Aid

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

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

January 3, 2012

JACK WAGNER
Auditor General

AVALON BOROUGH NONUNIFORMED PENSION PLAN
STATUS OF PRIOR FINDINGS

Compliance With Prior Audit Recommendations

Avalon Borough has complied with the prior audit recommendations concerning the following:

- Failure To Deposit State Aid Into An Eligible Pension Plan And Untimely Deposits of State Aid

The borough deposited \$29,848 and \$46,439 into the plan for the 2001 and 2002 state aid allocations that were not deposited. In addition, the borough deposited the interest due to the plan for the late deposits of 2003, 2004 and 2005 state aid allocations; and

- Failure To Pay The Minimum Obligation Of The Plan

The borough deposited the unpaid minimum municipal obligations due to the plan for the years 2001, 2002, 2005 and 2007, in accordance with Act 205 requirements.

Partial Compliance With Prior Audit Recommendation

Avalon Borough has partially 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 \$3,758 to the Commonwealth for the overpayment of state aid received in 2005; however, plan officials failed to comply with the instructions that accompany Certification Form AG 385 to assist them in accurately reporting the required pension data in the year 2010 as further discussed in the Finding and Recommendation section of this report.

AVALON BOROUGH NONUNIFORMED PENSION PLAN
FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION

Finding – Partial Compliance With Prior Audit Recommendation – Incorrect Data On Certification Form AG 385 Resulting In An Underpayment Of State Aid

Condition: As disclosed in the prior audit report, the borough overstated the number of eligible plan members in 2005 on Certification Form AG 385. During the current audit period, the borough reimbursed \$3,758 to the Commonwealth for the overpayment of state aid received; however, plan officials failed to comply with the instructions that accompany Certification Form AG 385 to assist them in accurately reporting the required pension data in the year 2010.

The borough failed to certify 1 eligible nonuniformed employee (1 unit) in 2010 on Certification Form AG 385.

Criteria: Pursuant to Act 205, at Section 402(e)(2), an employee who has been employed on a full-time basis for at least six consecutive months and has been participating in a pension plan during the certification year is eligible for certification.

Cause: Plan officials failed to establish adequate internal control procedures to ensure full compliance with the prior audit recommendation.

Effect: The data submitted on this certification form is used, in part, to calculate the state aid due to the municipality for distribution to its pension plans. Because the borough’s state aid allocation was based on unit value, the incorrect certification of pension data affected the borough’s state aid allocation, as identified below:

<u>Units</u> <u>Understated</u>	<u>Unit</u> <u>Value</u>	<u>State Aid</u> <u>Underpayment</u>
1	\$ 3,235	\$ 3,235

Although the borough will be reimbursed for the underpayment of state aid due to the borough’s certification error, the full amount of the 2010 state aid allocation was not available to be deposited timely and therefore was not available to pay operating expenses or for investment.

Recommendation: We again recommend that plan officials comply with the instructions that accompany Certification Form AG 385 to assist them in accurately reporting the required pension plan data.

Management’s Response: Municipal officials agreed with the finding without exception.

AVALON BOROUGH NONUNIFORMED PENSION PLAN
 SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
 (UNAUDITED)

SCHEDULE OF FUNDING PROGRESS

Historical trend information about the plan is presented herewith as supplementary information. It is intended to help users assess the plan's funding status on a going-concern basis, assess progress made in accumulating assets to pay benefits when due, and make comparisons with other state and local government retirement systems.

The actuarial information is required by Act 205 biennially. The historical information, beginning as of January 1, 2005, is as follows:

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Actuarial Valuation Date	Actuarial Value of Assets (a)	Actuarial Accrued Liability (AAL) - Entry Age (b)	Unfunded (Assets in Excess of) Actuarial Accrued Liability (b) - (a)	Funded Ratio (a)/(b)	Covered Payroll (c)	Unfunded (Assets in Excess of) Actuarial Accrued Liability as a % of Payroll [(b-a)/(c)]
01-01-05	\$ 306,762	\$ 251,024	\$ (55,738)	122.2%	\$ 200,198	(27.8%)
01-01-07	340,291	280,685	(59,606)	121.2%	170,254	(35.0%)
01-01-09	317,063	331,342	14,279	95.7%	251,178	5.7%

Note: The market values of the plan's assets at 01-01-05, 01-01-07 and 01-01-09, have been adjusted to reflect the smoothing of gains and/or losses over a 4-year averaging period. This method will lower contributions in years of less than expected returns and increase contributions in years of greater than expected returns. The net effect over long periods of time is to have less variance in contribution levels from year to year.

AVALON BOROUGH NONUNIFORMED PENSION PLAN
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
(UNAUDITED)

The comparability of trend information is affected by changes in actuarial assumptions, benefit provisions, actuarial funding methods, accounting policies, and other changes. Those changes usually affect trends in contribution requirements and in ratios that use the actuarial accrued liability as a factor.

Analysis of the dollar amount of the actuarial value of assets, actuarial accrued liability, and unfunded (assets in excess of) actuarial accrued liability in isolation can be misleading. Expressing the actuarial value of assets as a percentage of the actuarial accrued liability (Column 4) provides one indication of the plan's funding status on a going-concern basis. Analysis of this percentage, over time, indicates whether the system is becoming financially stronger or weaker. Generally, the greater this percentage, the stronger the plan.

Trends in unfunded (assets in excess of) actuarial accrued liability and annual covered payroll are both affected by inflation. Expressing the unfunded (assets in excess of) actuarial accrued liability as a percentage of annual covered payroll (Column 6) approximately adjusts for the effects of inflation and aids analysis of the plan's progress made in accumulating sufficient assets to pay benefits when due. Generally, where there is an unfunded actuarial accrued liability, the smaller this percentage, the stronger the plan. However, when assets are in excess of the actuarial accrued liability, the higher the bracketed percentage, the stronger the plan.

AVALON BOROUGH NONUNIFORMED PENSION PLAN
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
(UNAUDITED)

SCHEDULE OF CONTRIBUTIONS FROM EMPLOYER
AND OTHER CONTRIBUTING ENTITIES

Year Ended December 31	Annual Required Contribution	Percentage Contributed
2005	\$ 4,134	100.0%
2006	2,816	100.0%
2007	4,270	100.0%
2008	5,180	100.0%
2009	5,012	100.0%
2010	3,709	100.0%

AVALON BOROUGH NONUNIFORMED PENSION PLAN
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
NOTES TO SUPPLEMENTARY SCHEDULES
(UNAUDITED)

The information presented in the required supplementary schedules was determined as part of the actuarial valuation at the date indicated. Additional information as of the latest actuarial valuation date follows:

Actuarial valuation date	January 1, 2009
Actuarial cost method	Entry age normal
Amortization method	Level dollar, open
Remaining amortization period	14 years
Asset valuation method	Fair value, 4-year smoothing
Actuarial assumptions:	
Investment rate of return	7.5%
Projected salary increases	4.5%

AVALON BOROUGH NONUNIFORMED PENSION PLAN
REPORT DISTRIBUTION LIST

This report was initially distributed to the following:

The Honorable Tom Corbett
Governor
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Avalon Borough Nonuniformed Pension Plan
Allegheny County
640 California Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15202

The Honorable David C. Haslett	Mayor
Mr. Edward Repp	Council President
Mr. Harry W. Dilmore	Borough Manager

This report is a matter of public record. Copies of this report may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of the Auditor General, Office of Communications, Room 318 Finance Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120. If you have any questions regarding this report or any other matter, you may contact the Department of the Auditor General by accessing our website at www.auditorgen.state.pa.us.