

**CITY OF ALLENTOWN OFFICERS' AND EMPLOYEES' –  
PMRS PENSION PLAN**

**LEHIGH COUNTY**

**COMPLIANCE AUDIT REPORT**

**FOR THE PERIOD**

**JANUARY 1, 2009, TO DECEMBER 31, 2010**





**CITY OF ALLENTOWN OFFICERS' AND EMPLOYEES' –  
PMRS PENSION PLAN**

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### ABBREVIATION

PMRS - Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System



## 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 City of Allentown Officers' and Employees' – PMRS 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 including, but not limited to, the following:

Act 15 - Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement Law, Act of February 1, 1974  
(P.L. 34, No. 15), as amended, 53 P.S. § 881.101 et seq.

The City of Allentown Officers' and Employees' – PMRS Pension Plan is a single-employer defined benefit pension plan locally controlled by the provisions of Article 142 of the city's codified ordinances, adopted pursuant to Act 15. Nonuniformed employees hired after August 5, 1981, are members of the plan. The plan is also affected by the provisions of collective bargaining agreements between the city and its nonuniformed employees.





The Honorable Mayor and City Council  
City of Allentown  
Lehigh County  
Allentown, PA 18101

We have conducted a compliance audit of the City of Allentown Officers' and Employees' – PMRS Pension Plan for the period January 1, 2009, 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 the 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 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. The City of Allentown Officers' and Employees' – PMRS Pension Plan participates in the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System (PMRS), which is an agent multiple-employer public employee retirement system that acts as a common investment and administrative agent for participating municipal pension plans. PMRS issues a separate Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, copies of which are available from the PMRS accounting office. PMRS's financial statements were not audited by us and, accordingly, we express no opinion or other form of assurance on them.

City officials are responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal controls to provide reasonable assurance that the City of Allentown Officers' and Employees' – PMRS 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 city's internal controls as they relate to the city'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 City of Allentown Officers' and Employees' – PMRS 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 – Noncompliance 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 the City of Allentown and, where appropriate, their responses have been included in the report.

June 29, 2011

JACK WAGNER  
Auditor General

CITY OF ALLENTOWN OFFICERS' AND EMPLOYEES' – PMRS PENSION PLAN  
STATUS OF PRIOR FINDING

Noncompliance With Prior Audit Recommendation

The City of Allentown has not complied with the prior audit recommendation concerning the following as further discussed in the Finding and Recommendation section of this report:

- Incorrect Data On Certification Form AG 385 Resulting In An Underpayment Of State Aid

CITY OF ALLENTOWN OFFICERS' AND EMPLOYEES' – PMRS PENSION PLAN  
FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION

Finding – Noncompliance 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 city failed to certify one eligible member of the pension plan (1 unit) in 2008 on Certification Form AG 385.

During the current audit period, the city failed to certify 1 eligible member of the pension plan (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 the accuracy of the data certified and to ensure 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 city for distribution to its pension plans. Because the city's state aid allocation was based on unit value, the city received an underpayment of state aid of \$3,235 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 city will be reimbursed for the underpayment of state aid due to the city'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 establish adequate internal control procedures to ensure compliance with the instructions that accompany Certification Form AG 385 to assist them in accurately reporting the required pension data.

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

CITY OF ALLENTOWN OFFICERS' AND EMPLOYEES' – PMRS 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, except for distressed pension plans, for which annual reporting was required through January 1, 2003. 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	\$ 90,697,840	\$ 86,407,364	\$ (4,290,476)	105.0%	\$ 23,686,928	(18.1%)
01-01-07	100,999,424	100,013,905	(985,519)	101.0%	24,003,648	(4.1%)
01-01-09	115,563,078	114,727,071	(836,007)	100.7%	27,337,110	(3.1%)

CITY OF ALLENTOWN OFFICERS' AND EMPLOYEES' – PMRS 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.

CITY OF ALLENTOWN OFFICERS' AND EMPLOYEES' – PMRS PENSION PLAN  
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION  
(UNAUDITED)

SCHEDULE OF CONTRIBUTIONS FROM EMPLOYER  
AND OTHER CONTRIBUTING ENTITIES

Year Ended December 31	Annual Required Contribution	Percentage Contributed
2005	\$ 358,968	100.0%
2006	446,843	100.2%
2007	1,263,532	100.0%
2008	1,374,389	100.0%
2009	1,217,945	100.0%
2010	1,186,454	100.0%

CITY OF ALLENTOWN OFFICERS' AND EMPLOYEES' – PMRS PENSION PLAN  
 SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION  
 (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	N/A
Remaining amortization period	N/A
Asset valuation method	Fair value
Actuarial assumptions:	
Investment rate of return	6.0%, net of expenses
Projected salary increases *	4.5%
* Includes inflation at	3.0%
Cost-of-living adjustments	3.0%, where applicable



CITY OF ALLENTOWN OFFICERS' AND EMPLOYEES' – PMRS PENSION PLAN  
REPORT DISTRIBUTION LIST

This report was initially distributed to the following:

The Honorable Tom Corbett  
Governor  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

City of Allentown Officers' and Employees' – PMRS Pension Plan  
Lehigh County  
435 Hamilton Street  
Allentown, PA 18101

The Honorable Edward Pawlowski	Mayor
Mr. Michael D'Amore	Council President
Mr. Garret H. Strathearn	Director of Finance
Mr. Michael P. Hanlon	City Clerk
Ms. Kristine M. Cline	Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System

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](http://www.auditorgen.state.pa.us).