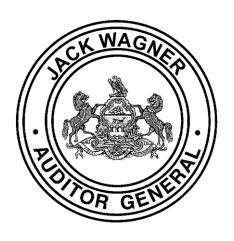
CITY OF BETHLEHEM AGGREGATE PENSION FUND NORTHAMPTON COUNTY

COMPLIANCE AUDIT REPORT

FOR THE PERIOD

JANUARY 1, 2008, TO DECEMBER 31, 2009



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ABBREVIATION

PERC - Public Employee Retirement Commission

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 Bethlehem Aggregate Pension Fund 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 147 Special Ad Hoc Municipal Police and Firefighter Postretirement Adjustment Act, Act of December 14, 1988 (P.L. 1192, No. 147), as amended, 53 P.S. § 896.101 et seq.
- Act 399 Optional Third Class City Charter Law, Act of July 15, 1957 (P.L. 901, No. 399), as amended, 53 P.S. § 41101 et seq.

The City of Bethlehem Aggregate Pension Fund serves as a common investment and administrative agent for the city's police, officers' and employees' and paid firemen's pension plans. The plans are single-employer defined benefit pension plans locally controlled by the provisions of the City's Codified Ordinances, at Articles 153, 155 and 151, respectively. The plans are also affected by the provisions of collective bargaining agreements between the city and its police officers, nonuniformed employees and firefighters.



The Honorable Mayor and City Council City of Bethlehem Northampton County Bethlehem, PA 18018

We have conducted a compliance audit of the City of Bethlehem Aggregate Pension Fund for the period January 1, 2008, to December 31, 2009. 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 findings and conclusions based on our audit objectives. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our findings 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 Bethlehem contracted with an independent certified public accounting firm for annual audits of its basic financial statements which are available at the city's offices. Those 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 Bethlehem Aggregate Pension Fund 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 Bethlehem Aggregate Pension Fund was administered in compliance with applicable state laws, regulations, contracts, administrative procedures, and local ordinances and policies, except as noted in the following findings further discussed later in this report:

Firemen's Pension Plan

Finding No. 1 - Incorrect Data On Certification Form AG 385 Resulting In An Overpayment Of State Aid

Finding No. 2 – Incorrect Data Supplied To Actuary For Actuarial Valuation Report Preparation

Finding No. 3 - Inconsistent Pension Benefit

Police Pension Plan

Finding No. 4 – Incorrect Data Supplied To Actuary For Actuarial Valuation Report Preparation

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 Bethlehem and, where appropriate, their responses have been included in the report.

September 20, 2010

JACK WAGNER Auditor General

CITY OF BETHLEHEM AGGREGATE PENSION FUND STATUS OF PRIOR FINDING

Rescission Of Prior Audit Recommendation

The following prior audit recommendation has been rescinded:

· Unauthorized Pension Benefits

The city provided documentation that the collective bargaining agreement and the plan's governing document authorize police officers to elect a credit of accumulated unused sick leave up to a maximum of 150 workdays toward service or increment requirements under the pension plan. Therefore, the time credited to the retired police officer pursuant to this provision did not result in an unauthorized pension benefit and the prior audit finding has been rescinded.

CITY OF BETHLEHEM AGGREGATE PENSION FUND FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Firemen's Pension Plan

<u>Finding No. 1 – Incorrect Data On Certification Form AG 385 Resulting In An Overpayment Of State Aid</u>

<u>Condition</u>: The city certified 1 ineligible firefighter (2 units) and overstated payroll by \$1,850 in 2009 on Certification Form AG 385.

<u>Criteria</u>: Pursuant to Act 205, at Section 402(e)(2), in order to be eligible for certification, an employee must have been employed on a full-time basis for at least six consecutive months and must have been participating in a pension plan during the certification year.

<u>Cause</u>: Plan officials failed to establish adequate internal control procedures to ensure the accuracy of the data certified.

<u>Effect</u>: 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 incorrect certification of pension data affected the city's state aid allocation, as identified below:

Units	Unit		State Aid
Overstated	Value	O	verpayment
		· ·	-
2	\$ 3,128	\$	6,256

In addition, the city used the overpayment of state aid to pay the minimum municipal obligation (MMO) due to the firemen's pension plan; therefore, if the reimbursement to the Commonwealth is made from the pension plan, the plan's MMO will not be fully paid.

<u>Recommendation</u>: We recommend that the total excess state aid, in the amount of \$6,256, be returned to the Commonwealth. A check in this amount, with interest compounded annually from date of receipt to date of repayment, at a rate earned by the pension plan, should be made payable to: Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and mailed to: Department of the Auditor General, Municipal Pension & Fire Relief Programs Unit, 11 Stanwix Street, Suite 1450, Pittsburgh, PA 15222. A copy of the interest calculation must be submitted along with the check.

We also recommend that, in the future, 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.

CITY OF BETHLEHEM AGGREGATE PENSION FUND FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Firemen's Pension Plan – (Continued)

Finding No. 1 – (Continued)

In addition, if the reimbursement to the Commonwealth is made from pension plan funds, we recommend that any resulting MMO deficiency be paid to the pension plan with interest, at a rate earned by the pension plan.

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

Finding No. 2 – Incorrect Data Supplied To Actuary For Actuarial Valuation Report Preparation

<u>Condition</u>: Actuarial valuation report form 202C, with valuation dates of January 1, 2007 and January 1, 2009, submitted to the Public Employee Retirement Commission (PERC), contained incorrect information. The information was based on data supplied by the city to the plan's actuary.

The city supplied the following incorrect information to the plan's actuary:

Schedule (C), at Section IV states;

Non-service related disability benefit – After 10 but less than 15 years of service – 30% of average monthly compensation. After 15 but less than 21 years of service – 60% of average monthly compensation, and after 21 years of service – the benefit is based upon the normal retirement benefit formula. The benefit is reduced by Workers' Compensation.

However, the plan's governing document does not provide for this benefit. This benefit provision only appears in the police pension plan.

Criteria: Section 201(d) of Act 205 states:

Responsibility for preparation and filing of reports and investigations. The actuarial valuation report or experience investigation required pursuant to subsection (a) shall be prepared under the supervision and at the discretion of the chief administrative officer of the municipality, who shall be responsible for the filing of the document. The actuarial valuation report or experience investigation shall be signed by the chief administrative officer, indicating that to the extent of the understanding and knowledge of the officer, the report or investigation represents a true and accurate portrayal of the actuarial, financial and demographic condition of the pension plan of the municipality.

CITY OF BETHLEHEM AGGREGATE PENSION FUND FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Firemen's Pension Plan – (Continued)

Finding No. 2 – (Continued)

<u>Cause</u>: Plan officials failed to establish adequate internal control procedures to ensure the information contained in the actuarial valuation report was consistent with the plan's governing document.

<u>Effect</u>: The information contained in the actuarial valuation report is used to determine the city's minimum municipal obligation (MMO); therefore, the incorrect data may have resulted in an erroneous MMO calculation.

<u>Recommendation</u>: We recommend that plan officials contact PERC to determine if a revised actuarial valuation report may be filed. If a revised report is prepared and accepted by PERC, a copy should be submitted to: Department of the Auditor General, Bureau of Municipal Pension Audits, 406 Finance Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120.

Furthermore, we recommend that, in the future, plan officials review and verify all information submitted to and received from the plan's actuary so that future actuarial valuation reports properly reflect the status of the pension plan.

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

Finding No. 3 – Inconsistent Pension Benefit

<u>Condition</u>: The firemen's pension plan's governing document, the City's Codified Ordinance at Article 151, contains a benefit provision that conflicts with the collective bargaining agreement between the firefighters and the city, as follows:

Benefit Provision	Governing Document	Collective Bargaining Agreement
Deferred retirement option plan	Not provided	Available to all firemen who have attained age 57 and completed 20 years of service.

CITY OF BETHLEHEM AGGREGATE PENSION FUND FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Firemen's Pension Plan – (Continued)

Finding No. 3 – (Continued)

<u>Criteria</u>: The plan's governing document and the collective bargaining agreement should contain consistent benefit provisions to ensure the sound administration of retirement benefits.

<u>Cause</u>: City officials failed to establish adequate internal control procedures to ensure the plan's governing document and the collective bargaining agreement contained consistent benefit provisions.

<u>Effect</u>: Inconsistent plan documents could result in inconsistent or improper benefit calculations and incorrect benefit payments from the pension plan.

<u>Recommendation</u>: We recommend that city officials take appropriate action to ensure the plan's governing document and the collective bargaining agreement contain consistent benefit provisions at their earliest opportunity to do so.

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

Police Pension Plan

Finding No. 4 – Incorrect Data Supplied To Actuary For Actuarial Valuation Report Preparation

<u>Condition</u>: Actuarial valuation report form 201C, with valuation dates of January 1, 2007 and January 1, 2009, submitted to the Public Employee Retirement Commission (PERC), contained incorrect information. The information was based on data supplied by the city to the plan's actuary.

The city supplied the following incorrect information to the plan's actuary:

Schedule (C), at Section IV states;

Retirement benefit – ...plus an incremental pension (maximum \$100) of $1/40^{th}$ of such pension per year over 20 years.

However, the plan's governing document does not provide for this benefit. This benefit provision only appears in the firemen's pension plan.

CITY OF BETHLEHEM AGGREGATE PENSION FUND FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Police Pension Plan – (Continued)

Finding No. 4 – (Continued)

Criteria: Section 201(d) of Act 205 states:

Responsibility for preparation and filing of reports and investigations. The actuarial valuation report or experience investigation required pursuant to subsection (a) shall be prepared under the supervision and at the discretion of the chief administrative officer of the municipality, who shall be responsible for the filing of the document. The actuarial valuation report or experience investigation shall be signed by the chief administrative officer, indicating that to the extent of the understanding and knowledge of the officer, the report or investigation represents a true and accurate portrayal of the actuarial, financial and demographic condition of the pension plan of the municipality.

<u>Cause</u>: Plan officials failed to establish adequate internal control procedures to ensure the information contained in the actuarial valuation report was consistent with the plan's governing document.

<u>Effect</u>: The information contained in the actuarial valuation report is used to determine the city's minimum municipal obligation (MMO); therefore, the incorrect data may have resulted in an erroneous MMO calculation.

<u>Recommendation</u>: We recommend that plan officials contact PERC to determine if a revised actuarial valuation report may be filed. If a revised report is prepared and accepted by PERC, a copy should be submitted to: Department of the Auditor General, Bureau of Municipal Pension Audits, 406 Finance Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120.

Furthermore, we recommend that, in the future, plan officials review and verify all information submitted to and received from the plan's actuary so that future actuarial valuation reports properly reflect the status of the pension plan.

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

SCHEDULES 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:

POLICE PENSION PLAN

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
						Unfunded
			Unfunded			(Assets in
		Actuarial	(Assets in			Excess of)
		Accrued	Excess of)			Actuarial
	Actuarial	Liability	Actuarial			Accrued
Actuarial	Value of	(AAL) -	Accrued	Funded	Covered	Liability as a
Valuation	Assets	Entry Age	Liability	Ratio	Payroll	% of Payroll
Date	(a)	(b)	(b) - (a)	(a)/(b)	(c)	[(b-a)/(c)]
01-01-05	\$57,998,923	\$61,741,150	\$ 3,742,227	93.9%	\$ 7,772,407	48.1%
01-01-07	64,234,097	67,122,710	2,888,613	95.7%	8,603,708	33.6%
01-01-09	64,399,190	74,423,894	10,024,704	86.5%	10,058,301	99.7%

Note: The market value of the plan's assets at 01-01-09 has been adjusted to reflect the smoothing of gains and/or losses over a 5-year averaging period, which will also be limited to a maximum of 130 percent and a minimum of 70 percent of the fair market value of assets. 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.

SCHEDULES OF FUNDING PROGRESS – (Continued)

FIREMEN'S PENSION PLAN

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
						Unfunded
			Unfunded			(Assets in
		Actuarial	(Assets in			Excess of)
		Accrued	Excess of)			Actuarial
	Actuarial	Liability	Actuarial			Accrued
Actuarial	Value of	(AAL) -	Accrued	Funded	Covered	Liability as a
Valuation	Assets	Entry Age	Liability	Ratio	Payroll	% of Payroll
Date	(a)	(b)	(b) - (a)	(a)/(b)	(c)	[(b-a)/(c)]
01-01-05	\$43,034,163	\$ 44,704,037	\$ 1,669,874	96.3%	\$ 5,494,593	30.4%
01-01-07	48,461,160	49,968,614	1,507,454	97.0%	5,994,014	25.1%
01-01-09	48,780,258	55,305,397	6,525,139	88.2%	6,544,422	99.7%

Note: The market value of the plan's assets at 01-01-09 has been adjusted to reflect the smoothing of gains and/or losses over a 5-year averaging period, which will also be limited to a maximum of 130 percent and a minimum of 70 percent of the fair market value of assets. 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.

SCHEDULES OF FUNDING PROGRESS – (Continued)

OFFICERS' AND EMPLOYEES' PENSION PLAN

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
						Unfunded
			Unfunded			(Assets in
		Actuarial	(Assets in			Excess of)
		Accrued	Excess of)			Actuarial
	Actuarial	Liability	Actuarial			Accrued
Actuarial	Value of	(AAL) -	Accrued	Funded	Covered	Liability as a %
Valuation	Assets	Entry Age	Liability	Ratio	Payroll	of Payroll
Date	(a)	(b)	(b) - (a)	(a)/(b)	(c)	[(b-a)/(c)]
01-01-05	\$ 9,454,457	\$ 10,515,593	\$ 1,061,136	89.9%	\$ 418,165	253.8%
01-01-07	9,001,028	10,177,845	1,176,817	88.4%	321,240	366.3%
01-01-09	7,943,203	8,984,437	1,041,234	88.4%	240,846	432.3%

Note: The market value of the plan's assets at 01-01-09 has been adjusted to reflect the smoothing of gains and/or losses over a 5-year averaging period, which will also be limited to a maximum of 130 percent and a minimum of 70 percent of the fair market value of assets. 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.

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.

SCHEDULES OF CONTRIBUTIONS FROM EMPLOYER AND OTHER CONTRIBUTING ENTITIES

POLICE PENSION PLAN

Year Ended December 31	Annual Required Contribution	Percentage Contributed
2004	\$ 631,272	167.9%
2005	1,013,849	100.0%
2006	1,571,524	100.0%
2007	1,692,287	100.0%
2008	1,713,031	100.0%
2009	1,847,708	100.0%

SCHEDULES OF CONTRIBUTIONS FROM EMPLOYER AND OTHER CONTRIBUTING ENTITIES

FIREMEN'S PENSION PLAN

Year Ended December 31	Annual Required Contribution	Percentage Contributed
2004	\$ 521,540	160.6%
2005	636,326	100.0%
2006	986,961	100.0%
2007	1,044,942	100.0%
2008	1,018,719	100.0%
2009	1,174,242	100.0%

SCHEDULES OF CONTRIBUTIONS FROM EMPLOYER AND OTHER CONTRIBUTING ENTITIES

OFFICERS' AND EMPLOYEES' PENSION PLAN

Year Ended December 31	Annual Required Contribution	Percentage Contributed
2004	None	N/A
2005	\$ 1,037	100.0%
2006	381,266	100.0%
2007	381,269	100.0%
2008	379,382	100.0%
2009	622,663	100.0%

CITY OF BETHLEHEM AGGREGATE PENSION FUND 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:

POLICE PENSION PLAN

Actuarial valuation date January 1, 2009

Actuarial cost method Entry age normal

Amortization method Level dollar

Remaining amortization period 19 years

Asset valuation method The actuarial value of assets

will be limited to a maximum of 130% and a minimum of 70% of the fair market value of

assets.

Actuarial assumptions:

Investment rate of return * 7.5%

Projected salary increases * 5.0%

* Includes inflation at Not disclosed

Cost-of-living adjustments None assumed

CITY OF BETHLEHEM AGGREGATE PENSION FUND SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION NOTES TO SUPPLEMENTARY SCHEDULES (UNAUDITED)

FIREMEN'S PENSION PLAN

Actuarial valuation date January 1, 2009

Actuarial cost method Entry age normal

Amortization method Level dollar

Remaining amortization period 20 years

Asset valuation method The actuarial value of assets

will be limited to a maximum of 130% and a minimum of 70% of the fair market value of

assets.

Actuarial assumptions:

Investment rate of return * 7.5%

Projected salary increases * 5.0%

* Includes inflation at Not disclosed

Cost-of-living adjustments None assumed

CITY OF BETHLEHEM AGGREGATE PENSION FUND SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION NOTES TO SUPPLEMENTARY SCHEDULES (UNAUDITED)

OFFICERS' AND EMPLOYEES' PENSION PLAN

Actuarial valuation date January 1, 2009

Actuarial cost method Entry age normal

Amortization method Level dollar

Remaining amortization period 2 years

will be limited to a maximum of 130% and a minimum of 70% of the fair market value of

assets.

Actuarial assumptions:

Investment rate of return * 7.5%

Projected salary increases * 5.0%

* Includes inflation at Not disclosed

Cost-of-living adjustments None assumed

CITY OF BETHLEHEM AGGREGATE PENSION FUND REPORT DISTRIBUTION LIST

This report was initially distributed to the following:

The Honorable Edward G. Rendell Governor Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

City of Bethlehem Aggregate Pension Fund Northampton County 10 East Church Street Bethlehem, PA 18018

The Honorable John B. Callahan Mayor

Mr. Robert J. Donchez City Council President

Mr. Dennis W. Reichard City Business Administrator

Ms. Cynthia H. Biedenkopf City Clerk

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.