# JENKINTOWN BOROUGH POLICE PENSION PLAN MONTGOMERY COUNTY

FOR THE PERIOD

**JANUARY 1, 2006, TO DECEMBER 31, 2008** 



# JENKINTOWN BOROUGH POLICE PENSION PLAN MONTGOMERY COUNTY

COMPLIANCE AUDIT REPORT

FOR THE PERIOD

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# **CONTENTS**

	<u>Page</u>
Background	1
Letter from the Auditor General	3
Status of Prior Finding	5
Supplementary Information	6
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 Jenkintown Borough Police 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 600 - Police Pension Fund Act, Act of May 29, 1956 (P.L. 1804, No. 600), as amended, 53 P.S. § 761 et seq.

The Jenkintown Borough Police Pension Plan is a single-employer defined benefit pension plan locally controlled by the provisions of Ordinance No. 2009-3, effective January 1, 2008, adopted pursuant to Act 600. Prior to January 1, 2008, the plan was locally controlled by the provisions of Ordinance No. 2002-8, adopted pursuant to Act 600. The plan is also affected by the provisions of collective bargaining agreements between the borough and its police officers.



The Honorable Mayor and Borough Council Jenkintown Borough Montgomery County Jenkintown, PA 19046

We have conducted a compliance audit of the Jenkintown Borough Police Pension Plan for the period January 1, 2006, to December 31, 2008. 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 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. Jenkintown Borough contracted with an independent certified public accounting firm for annual audits of its financial statements prepared in conformity with the accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the Department of Community and Economic Development of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, 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 an internal control structure to provide reasonable assurance that the Jenkintown Borough Police Pension Plan is administered in compliance with applicable state laws, regulations, contracts, administrative procedures, and local ordinances and policies. To assist us in planning and performing our audit, we obtained an understanding of the borough's internal control structure as it relates to the borough's compliance with those requirements. Additionally, we tested transactions, assessed official actions, performed analytical procedures and interviewed selected officials to the extent necessary to satisfy the audit objective.

The results of our tests indicated that, in all significant respects, the Jenkintown Borough Police 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 and, accordingly, express no form of assurance on it.

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

June 9, 2009

JACK WAGNER Auditor General

#### JENKINTOWN BOROUGH POLICE PENSION PLAN STATUS OF PRIOR FINDING

#### Status of Prior Audit Recommendation

#### Pension Benefits Not Authorized By Act 600 Or The Plan's Governing Document

As disclosed in the audit report for the period January 1, 2001, to December 31, 2002, the borough granted pension benefits to 3 retirees that were not authorized by Act 600 or the plan's governing document. It was recommended that the borough eliminate all benefits not authorized by Act 600 at its earliest opportunity to do so. To the extent that the borough is not in compliance with Act 600 and/or is contractually obligated to pay benefits to existing retirees in excess of those authorized by Act 600, the excess benefits must be reflected in the Act 205 actuarial valuation reports for the plan and funded in accordance with Act 205 funding standards. Furthermore, such benefits will be deemed ineligible for funding with state pension aid. In such case, the plan's actuary may be required to determine the impact, if any, of the unauthorized benefits on the plan's future state aid allocations.

The prior audit report for the period January 1, 2003, to December 31, 2005, noted that the collective bargaining agreement for the years 2006 through 2009, adopted January 1, 2006, eliminated the inclusion of lump-sum payments for accumulated unused leave in the salary used for pension calculation purposes. In addition, it was determined the borough did not receive excess state aid allocations attributable to the excess pension benefits during the prior audit period.

During the current audit period, the borough continues to pay excess benefits to the retired police officers. The plan's actuary has determined that the impact of these excess benefits on the borough's state aid allocations for the years 2006, 2007 and 2008, totaled \$15,773. The reimbursement of the excess state aid to the Commonwealth is pending approval from borough council.

The Department will continue to monitor the Borough's continued compliance with the prior audit recommendation during future audits of the plan.

#### 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, 2003, is as follows:

	(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)]
01-01-03	\$ 2,759,487	\$ 2,726,391	\$ (33,096)	101.2%	\$ 533,874	(6.2%)
01-01-05	3,205,263	3,162,391	(42,872)	101.4%	569,663	(7.5%)
01-01-07	3,486,421	3,450,967	(35,454)	101.0%	678,457	(5.2%)

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.

# SCHEDULE OF CONTRIBUTIONS FROM EMPLOYER AND OTHER CONTRIBUTING ENTITIES

Year Ended December 31	Annual Required Contribution	Percentage Contributed
2003	None	N/A
2004	None	N/A
2005	\$ 60,046	100.0%
2006	57,690	100.0%
2007	68,413	105.0%
2008	77,895	100.0%

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, 2007

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 \* 8.0%

Projected salary increases \* 5.0%

\* Includes inflation at Not disclosed

Cost-of-living adjustments None assumed



### JENKINTOWN BOROUGH POLICE PENSION PLAN REPORT DISTRIBUTION LIST

This report was initially distributed to the following:

The Honorable Edward G. Rendell Governor Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Jenkintown Borough Police Pension Plan Montgomery County 700 Summit Avenue Jenkintown, PA 19046

The Honorable Gregory Wall Mayor

Ms. Sandra Goldman Council President

Ms. Allyson Dobbs Council Vice-President

Mr. Michael F. English 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.