

**LIBERTY BOROUGH POLICE PENSION PLAN**

**ALLEGHENY COUNTY**

**COMPLIANCE AUDIT REPORT**

**FOR THE PERIOD**

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





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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 Liberty 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 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 Liberty Borough Police Pension Plan is a single-employer defined contribution pension plan locally controlled by the provisions of Ordinance No. 468, as amended, adopted pursuant to Act 15. Active members may voluntarily contribute up to 10 percent of compensation to the plan. The municipality was required to contribute \$1.00 per hour for each hour worked by the plan member for the year 2006, and \$2.00 per hour for each hour worked by the plan member for the years 2007 and 2008.





The Honorable Mayor and Borough Council  
Liberty Borough  
Allegheny County  
McKeesport, PA 15133

We have conducted a compliance audit of the Liberty 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 finding and conclusions based on our audit objective. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our finding and 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. The Liberty Borough Police 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.

Borough officials are responsible for establishing and maintaining an internal control structure to provide reasonable assurance that the Liberty 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 Liberty Borough Police 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 – Receipt Of State Aid In Excess Of Entitlement

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

June 9, 2009

JACK WAGNER  
Auditor General

LIBERTY BOROUGH POLICE PENSION PLAN  
FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION

Finding – Receipt Of State Aid In Excess Of Entitlement

Condition: The borough received state aid in excess of the police and nonuniformed pension plans’ defined contribution pension costs in the years 2006 and 2008, as illustrated below:

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2008</u>
State aid allocation	\$ 9,612	\$ 11,469
Actual municipal pension costs		
Police pension plan	(2,100)	(4,180)
Nonuniformed pension plan	(4,930)	(5,506)
Excess state aid	\$ 2,582	\$ 1,783

Criteria: Section 402(f)(2) of Act 205 states:

No municipality shall be entitled to receive an allocation of general municipal pension system state aid in an amount which exceeds the aggregate actual financial requirements of any municipal pension plan for police officers, paid firefighters or employees other than police officers or paid firefighters maintained by the municipality, less the amount of any aggregate annual member or employee contributions during the next succeeding plan year, as reported in the most recent complete actuarial report filed with the commission.

Cause: Plan officials were unaware of the need to annually reconcile the amount of state aid allocated to the borough with the plans’ actual defined contribution pension costs.

Effect: It is this department’s opinion that since the entire proceeds of the insurance premium tax on foreign casualty insurance companies are distributed annually to each eligible recipient municipality, it is inappropriate to use state aid in one year to offset pension costs in other years. Consequently, the overpayments of state aid in the years 2006 and 2008, in the total amount of \$4,365, must be returned to the Commonwealth for redistribution.

Recommendation: We recommend that municipal officials return the \$4,365 of excess state aid received in the years 2006 and 2008 to the Commonwealth from borough funds. A check in this amount, with interest compounded annually from date of receipt to date of repayment, at a rate earned by the plan, should be made payable to: Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and mailed to: Department of the Auditor General, Municipal Pension & Fire Relief Programs Unit, 1205 Pittsburgh State Office Building, 300 Liberty Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222. A copy of the interest calculation must be submitted along with the check.

LIBERTY BOROUGH POLICE PENSION PLAN  
FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION

Finding – (Continued)

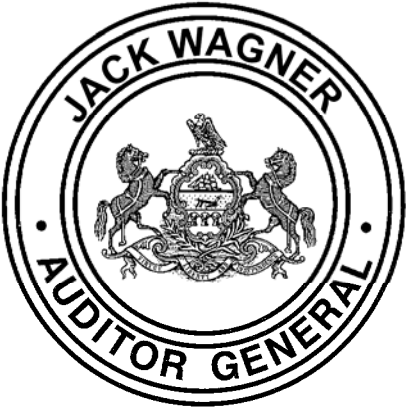
Furthermore, we recommend that, in the future, plan officials reconcile the amount of state aid allocated to the borough and municipal contributions made to the pension plans with the pension plans' actual defined contribution pension costs.

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

LIBERTY BOROUGH POLICE PENSION PLAN  
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION  
(UNAUDITED)

SCHEDULE OF STATE AID  
AND EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS

Year Ended December 31	State Aid Deposited	Employer Contributions
2003	\$ 1,323	\$ 2,291
2004	1,728	2,303
2005	1,819	281
2006	2,100	None
2007	4,160	20
2008	4,180	None



LIBERTY BOROUGH POLICE PENSION PLAN  
REPORT DISTRIBUTION LIST

This report was initially distributed to the following:

The Honorable Edward G. Rendell  
Governor  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Liberty Borough Police Pension Plan  
Allegheny County  
2921 Liberty Way  
McKeesport, PA 15133

The Honorable Edward R. Slater	Mayor
Ms. Lavina Kerklo	Council President
Ms. Debra L. Helderlein	Secretary/Treasurer
Mr. Benjamin F. Mader	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).