# NORTH VERSAILLES TOWNSHIP POLICE PENSION PLAN ALLEGHENY COUNTY

COMPLIANCE AUDIT REPORT

FOR THE PERIOD

JANUARY 1, 2007, TO DECEMBER 31, 2009



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#### **BACKGROUND**

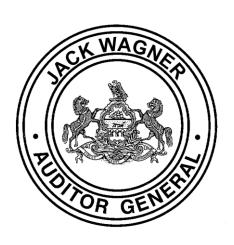
On December 18, 1984, the Pennsylvania Legislature adopted the Municipal Pension Plan Funding Standard and Recovery Act (P.L. 1005, No. 205, as amended, 53 P.S. § 895.101 et seq.). The act established mandatory actuarial reporting and funding requirements and a uniform basis for the distribution of state 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 North Versailles Township 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 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 600 Police Pension Fund Act, Act of May 29, 1956 (P.L. 1804, No. 600), as amended, 53 P.S. § 761 et seq.

The North Versailles Township Police Pension Plan is a single-employer defined benefit pension plan locally controlled by the provisions of Ordinance No. 997, as amended, adopted pursuant to Act 600. The plan is also affected by the provisions of collective bargaining agreements between the township and its police officers.



Board of Township Commissioners North Versailles Township Allegheny County North Versailles, PA 15137

We have conducted a compliance audit of the North Versailles Township Police Pension Plan for the period January 1, 2007, 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 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. North Versailles Township 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 township's offices. Those financial statements were not audited by us and, accordingly, we express no opinion or other form of assurance on them.

Township officials are responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal controls to provide reasonable assurance that the North Versailles Township Police 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 township's internal controls as they relate to the township'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 North Versailles Township 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 - Failure To Maintain An Adequate Record-Keeping System

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 North Versailles Township and, where appropriate, their responses have been included in the report.

December 20, 2010

JACK WAGNER Auditor General

### NORTH VERSAILLES TOWNSHIP POLICE PENSION PLAN STATUS OF PRIOR FINDINGS

### Compliance With Prior Audit Recommendation

North Versailles Township has complied with the prior audit recommendation concerning the following:

### · Incorrect Data On Certification Form AG 385 Resulting In An Overpayment Of State Aid

The township reimbursed \$6,946 to the Commonwealth for the overpayment of state aid received in 2005.

### Status Of Prior Audit Recommendation

### · Pension Benefits In Excess Of Act 600

The township adopted a normal retirement benefit provision in compliance with Act 600 for police officers hired on and after January 1, 1997. Since the township received state aid based on unit value during the audit period, it did not receive any state aid attributable to the excess benefits being provided to current retirees. The department will continue to monitor the effect the provision of excess benefits has on the township's state aid allocations during future audits of the plan.

### NORTH VERSAILLES TOWNSHIP POLICE PENSION PLAN FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION

### <u>Finding – Failure To Maintain An Adequate Record-Keeping System</u>

<u>Condition</u>: The township did not maintain an adequate record-keeping system for the police pension plan during the audit period. The deficiencies are as follows:

- · Custodial account transaction statements were not maintained;
- · Pension rosters were not maintained for active members and retirees; and
- · Pension benefit calculations and cost-of-living adjustment determinations were not maintained.

<u>Criteria</u>: An adequate system of accounting and record keeping is a prerequisite for the sound administration of pension plans.

<u>Cause</u>: Plan officials failed to establish adequate internal control procedures to ensure an adequate record-keeping system was maintained.

<u>Effect</u>: Although adequate supporting documentation was obtained from third-party sources to complete our audit procedures, the failure of plan officials to maintain an adequate record-keeping system prohibits the effective monitoring of the plan's financial transactions.

<u>Recommendation</u>: We recommend that plan officials establish accounting procedures which meet the minimum record-keeping requirements of this department. Plan officials should refer to the Auditor General's Bulletin No. 2-88 entitled "Preparation, Maintenance and Auditability of Financial Records," for further guidance in establishing adequate accounting procedures.

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

### NORTH VERSAILLES TOWNSHIP POLICE 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)
						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	\$ 3,577,833	\$ 4,561,068	\$ 983,235	78.4%	\$ 1,103,229	89.1%
01-01-07	3,916,360	4,994,287	1,077,927	78.4%	1,132,687	95.2%
01-01-09	4,295,820	5,941,089	1,645,269	72.3%	1,310,640	125.5%

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.

### NORTH VERSAILLES TOWNSHIP POLICE 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.

### NORTH VERSAILLES TOWNSHIP POLICE PENSION PLAN SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION (UNAUDITED)

## SCHEDULE OF CONTRIBUTIONS FROM EMPLOYER AND OTHER CONTRIBUTING ENTITIES

Year Ended December 31	Annual Required Contribution	Percentage Contributed
2004	\$ 188,812	100.0%
2005	193,558	100.0%
2006	215,360	100.7%
2007	230,628	100.0%
2008	255,231	100.0%
2009	272,308	100.0%

### NORTH VERSAILLES TOWNSHIP POLICE 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, closed

Remaining amortization period 16 years (aggregate)

Asset valuation method Fair value, 4-year smoothing

Actuarial assumptions:

Investment rate of return 7.0%

Projected salary increases \* 5.5%

\* Includes inflation at 3.0%

### NORTH VERSAILLES TOWNSHIP POLICE PENSION PLAN REPORT DISTRIBUTION LIST

This report was initially distributed to the following:

The Honorable Tom Corbett Governor Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

North Versailles Township Police Pension Plan Allegheny County 1401 Greensburg Avenue North Versailles, PA 15137

Ms. Ruth Grimes President, Board of Township Commissioners

Mr. Art Marra Township Commissioner

Ms. Allison Serakowski Township Secretary

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.