## EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Municipal Employees' Retirement System Multiple-Employer Defined Benefit Agent Plan GASB STATEMENT No. 68 REPORTS FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2021 (for Fiscal 2022 Employer Reporting)



Dennis E. Hoyle, CPA, Auditor General Office of the Auditor General General Assembly State of Rhode Island



Dennis E. Hoyle, CPA - Auditor General

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October 7, 2022

### JOINT COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE SERVICES:

SPEAKER K. Joseph Shekarchi, Chairman

Senator Dominick J. Ruggerio Senator Jessica de la Cruz Representative Christopher R. Blazejewski Representative Michael W. Chippendale

We have completed our audit of the Schedule of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position by Employer - Municipal Employees' Retirement System (MERS) plan for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021. The Schedules are required for employers participating in the MERS multiple-employer defined benefit agent plan to meet their financial reporting responsibilities under generally accepted accounting principles – specifically the requirements of Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 68 – Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions.

We have also included our report on the MERS plan census data as of June 30, 2020, which was used as the basis for the actuarial valuation of the plan at that date rolled forward to June 30, 2021 – the plan measurement date for fiscal 2022 financial reporting by participating employers in the MERS plan.

Our report is contained herein as outlined in the Table of Contents.

Sincerely,

Dennis E. Hoyle, CPA Auditor General

### EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

## Municipal Employees' Retirement System

Multiple-Employer Defined Benefit Agent Plan

GASB STATEMENT No. 68 REPORTS

FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2021

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EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

# Municipal Employees' Retirement System

Multiple-Employer Defined Benefit Agent Plan

### GASB STATEMENT No. 68 REPORTS

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Municipal Employees' Retirement System (MERS) Plan covers certain employees of municipalities, fire districts, housing authorities, water and sewer districts, and municipal police and fire units that have elected to participate. MERS is an agent plan and accordingly separate actuarial valuations are performed for each employer unit.

We have previously audited the financial statements of the Employees' Retirement System of the State of Rhode Island for the year ended June 30, 2021 which includes the MERS plan financial statements. ERSRI has prepared and we have audited the Schedule of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position by Employer (the Schedules) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021. The amounts included in the Schedule are used by the actuary to determine the net pension liability or asset for each MERS participating employer at the June 30, 2021 measurement date.

The net pension liability and other measures for each MERS employer unit have been developed consistent with the requirements of GASB 68 – *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions*. Such amounts are intended for accounting and financial reporting by governments which prepare their financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles as promulgated by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. These amounts may and will likely differ from amounts reported in actuarial valuations used to measure actuarially determined contribution amounts consistent with the plan's adopted funding policies.

We have also issued our report on the reliability of the MERS census data at June 30, 2020 used by the actuary to measure the total pension liability for each MERS participating employer. The June 30, 2020 actuarial data, rolled forward to June 30, 2021, was used as the basis for determining the total pension liability at the measurement date (June 30, 2021). Our report on the census data is intended to be used by each participating employer and their auditors in meeting the employer's fiscal 2022 financial reporting requirements.

The System's actuary has provided separately issued actuarial valuation reports to each MERS participating employer which contains the beginning net pension liability (asset), ending net pension liability (asset), pension expense and related deferred inflows and outflows. The employer specific actuarial reports also detail actuarial methods and assumptions used by the actuary in measuring the net pension liability (asset) in accordance with the requirements of GASB Statement No. 68.

This audit report and the actuarial valuation reports provided by the actuary will allow employers participating in the MERS agent plan to meet their financial reporting responsibilities pursuant to GASB Statement No. 68.



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#### INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT

#### JOINT COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE SERVICES, GENERAL ASSEMBLY RETIREMENT BOARD OF THE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND:

We have examined the Employees' Retirement System of Rhode Island's (the System's) management assertions related to the census data it maintained for the Municipal Employees' Retirement System (MERS) which was used by the System's actuary to prepare the actuarial valuations as of June 30, 2020 for the employers participating in MERS. The data in the 2020 valuations were rolled-forward to June 30, 2021 and used to prepare the GASB Statement No. 68 Accounting Valuation Reports as of June 30, 2021 for the employers participating in MERS. Those assertions are presented in accordance the laws governing MERS (Rhode Island General Law Title 45). The System's management is responsible for its assertions. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on management's assertionS based on our examination.

Our examination was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the AICPA. Those standards require that we plan and perform the examination to obtain reasonable assurance about whether management's assertions are fairly stated, in all material respects. An examination involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about management's assertions. The nature, timing, and extent of the procedures selected depend on our judgment, including an assessment of the risks of material misstatement of management's assertions, whether due to fraud or error. We believe that the evidence we obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

We are required to be independent and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with relevant ethical requirements relating to the engagement.

Management's assertions are:

- The key census data elements as of June 30, 2020 provided by the System to its actuary are complete and accurate based on the accumulation of census data reported by the participating employers for the period July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020. Key census data elements include: employer code, member name, gender, date of birth, date of hire, years of service, eligible compensation, date of termination, employment status (active, inactive or retired) and employee class (such as general employee, police, fire) and annual benefit payments for retirees as outlined in Title 45 of the General Laws of the State of Rhode Island.
- 2. The census data provided to the actuary as of June 30, 2020 properly reflects benefit provisions in effect through the measurement date of June 30, 2021 as outlined in Rhode Island General Law Title 45.
- 3. The census data provided to the actuary as of June 30, 2020 properly excludes deceased members based on the System's validation of the existence of plan members by cross matching social security numbers of plan members with the Social Security death file maintained by a private vendor (Pension Benefit Information) on a monthly basis for the period July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020.

Joint Committee on Legislative Services, General Assembly Retirement Board of the Employees' Retirement System of the State of Rhode Island

In our opinion, management's assertions referred to above are fairly stated, in all material respects, based on the law governing MERS (Rhode Island General Law Title 45).

Our report is intended solely for the information and use of the Employees' Retirement System of the State of Rhode Island's management, the Retirement Board of the Employees' Retirement System of the State of Rhode Island, the Municipal Employees' Retirement System participating employers and their auditors and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Dennis E. Hoyle, CPA **O** Auditor General

October 7, 2022



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#### **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

#### JOINT COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE SERVICES, GENERAL ASSEMBLY, STATE OF RHODE ISLAND: RETIREMENT BOARD OF THE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND:

#### Report on the Audit of the Schedule

#### Opinion

We have audited the fiduciary net position as of June 30, 2021, and the changes in fiduciary net position for the year then ended, included in the accompanying Schedule of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position by Employer ("Schedule") of the Municipal Employees' Retirement System (MERS), and the related notes. We have also audited the fiduciary net position of each individual employer as of June 30, 2021, and the changes in fiduciary net position of each individual employer as of June 30, 2021, and the changes in fiduciary net position of each individual employer as of June 30, 2021, and the changes in fiduciary net position of each individual employer as of June 30, 2021, and the changes in fiduciary net position of each individual employer for the year then ended, included in the accompanying Schedule and the related notes.

In our opinion, the accompanying Schedule of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position by Employer presents fairly, in all material respects, the fiduciary net position and the changes in fiduciary net position of the employers within the Municipal Employees' Retirement System as of and for the year ended June 30, 2021, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

#### **Basis for Opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statement section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Municipal Employees' Retirement System and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

#### Responsibilities of Management for the Schedule

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the schedule in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the schedule that is free from misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

#### Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Schedule

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the schedule as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and there- fore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may

Joint Committee on Legislative Services, General Assembly Retirement Board of the Employees' Retirement System of the State of Rhode Island

involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the schedule.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, we:

Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the schedule, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the schedule.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Municipal Employees' Retirement System's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the schedule.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Municipal Employees' Retirement System's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

#### Emphasis of Matter

The fair values of certain investments (hedge funds, private equity, real estate, private infrastructure, crisis protection class - trend following investments and emerging markets debt – collective unit trust) representing 34.6% of assets within the pooled investment trust, have been estimated by management in the absence of readily determinable fair values. Management's estimates are based on information provided by the fund managers or general partners.

Our opinion is not modified with respect to these matters.

#### Other Matter

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial statements of the Municipal Employees' Retirement System Plan within the Employees' Retirement System of Rhode Island as of and for the year ended June 30, 2021, and our report thereon, dated December 22, 2021, expressed an unmodified opinion on those financial statements.

Joint Committee on Legislative Services, General Assembly Retirement Board of the Employees' Retirement System of the State of Rhode Island

#### Restriction on Use

Our report is intended solely for the information and use of the Employees' Retirement System of the State of Rhode Island's management, the Retirement Board of the Employees' Retirement System of the State of Rhode Island, the Municipal Employees' Retirement System participating employers and their auditors and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Dennis E. Hoyle, CPA

Auditor General

October 7, 2022

Employer Unit Type	Barrington (COLA)	Barrington	Barrington	Barrington	Bristol	Bristol	Bristol
General Employees	•				•		
Police		•				•	
Fire			•	•			•
Police and Fire							
Current Employer Unit Number(s)	1002 1003 1007 1009	1004	1005	1008	1012 1019	1014	1015
Legacy Employer Unit Number	3078	4060	4061	4059	3002	4096	4094
Additions							
Contributions							
Member contributions	\$ 211,908	\$ 194,965	\$ 556	\$ 195,127	\$ 155,582	\$ 316,460	\$ 14,866
Employer contributions	949,314	682,903	310,491	208,592	826,914	240,510	25,141
Other (net)	-	-	-	-	183	-	-
Service credit transfers (net)	42,460	-	-	-	94,246	-	-
Net investment income	9,587,448	3,034,313	1,379,414	1,280,527	5,055,494	3,016,363	170,976
Total Additions	10,791,130	3,912,181	1,690,461	1,684,246	6,132,419	3,573,333	210,983
Deductions							
Retirement benefits and refunds	2,487,942	721,770	799,971	103,351	1,532,665	39,228	17,356
Administrative expense	36,530	11,561	5,256	4,879	19,262	11,493	651
Service credit transfers (net)	-	-	-	-	84,839	47,636	-
Total Deductions	2,524,472	733,331	805,227	108,230	1,636,766	98,357	18,007
Net Increase	8,266,658	3,178,850	885,234	1,576,017	4,495,653	3,474,976	192,975
Net position held in trust for pension benefits Beginning of year	36,060,962	10,850,315	5,492,493	4,344,509	18,878,454	10,471,194	597,532
End of year	\$ 44,327,620	\$ 14,029,165	\$ 6,377,727	\$ 5,920,526	\$ 23,374,107	\$ 13,946,170	\$ 790,507

Employer Unit Type	Bristol Hou:	sing	Bristol/Warren Regional School		Burrillville	Burrillville	Burr	illville Housing	Central Coventry Fire District		Central Falls
General Employees	•		•		•			•			•
Police						•					
Fire									•		
Police and Fire											
Current Employer Unit Number(s)	1016		1023		1032 1033	1034		1036	1045 1235 1525 1585		1052
Legacy Employer Unit Number	3059		3100		3003	4090		3065	4102		3004
Additions Contributions Member contributions	\$	13,866	\$ 107,505	5 \$	163,637	\$ 183,336	\$	4,587	\$ 183,17	9\$	32,703
Employer contributions		3,757	731,087	1	513,316	414,889		25,940	603,388	3	275,290
Other (net)		-		-	-	-		-		-	-
Service credit transfers (net)		-	6,788	3	49,111	-		-		-	192,302
Net investment income	60	00,861	4,537,845	)	7,900,951	3,187,297		233,137	2,737,06	I	1,433,646
Total Additions	61	18,484	5,383,225	)	8,627,015	3,785,522		263,664	3,523,628	}	1,933,941
Deductions											
Retirement benefits and refunds	12	23,309	1,677,900	)	1,972,747	684,940		90,713	841,08	3	518,938
Administrative expense		2,289	17,290	)	30,104	12,144		888	10,429	)	5,462
Service credit transfers (net)		-	1,826	)	-	-		-	186,99	5	14,977
Total Deductions	12	25,598	1,697,016	)	2,002,851	697,084		91,601	1,038,512	2	539,377
Net Increase	49	92,885	3,686,209	)	6,624,164	3,088,438		172,063	2,485,110	ò	1,394,564
Net position held in trust for pension benefits Beginning of year	2,28	35,198	17,294,544	ļ	29,905,929	11,648,048		905,847	10,169,69	)	5,233,908
End of year	\$ 2,77	78,083	\$ 20,980,753	\$	36,530,093	\$ 14,736,486	\$	1,077,910	\$ 12,654,81	5\$	6,628,472

Employer Unit Type	Central Falls Police and Fire (new)	Central Falls Police and Fire (legacy)	Central Falls School District	Central Falls Housing	Chariho School District	Charlestown	Charlestown
General Employees			•	•	•	•	
Police							•
Fire							
Police and Fire	•	•					
Current Employer Unit Number(s)	1054	1055	1063	1056	1073	1082	1084
Legacy Employer Unit Number	1054	1055	3099	3096	3040	3005	4086
Additions							
Contributions							
Member contributions	\$ 58,507	\$ 542,581	\$ 107,317	\$ 28,806	\$ 149,681	\$ 96,350	\$ 160,716
Employer contributions	62,368	3,010,213	313,370	156,412	612,732	198,762	1,574,879
Other (net)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Service credit transfers (net)	-	-	-	1,032	-	34,856	-
Net investment income	43,791	3,938,311	4,346,740	695,321	5,715,991	2,418,762	3,116,785
Total Additions	164,666	7,491,105	4,767,427	881,571	6,478,404	2,748,730	4,852,380
Deductions							
Retirement benefits and refunds	-	2,622,920	994,354	180,071	1,318,824	277,495	785,781
Administrative expense	167	15,006	16,562	2,649	21,779	9,216	11,876
Service credit transfers (net)	-	-	10,106	-	13,686	92,367	-
Total Deductions	167	2,637,926	1,021,022	182,720	1,354,289	379,078	797,657
Net Increase	164,499	4,853,179	3,746,405	698,851	5,124,115	2,369,652	4,054,724
Net position held in trust for pension benefits Beginning of year	37,967	13,355,624	16,350,772	2,515,971	21,303,803	8,813,509	10,355,750
End of year	\$ 202,466	\$ 18,208,803	\$ 20,097,177	\$ 3,214,822	\$ 26,427,918	\$ 11,183,161	\$ 14,410,474

Employer Unit Type	Coventry Fire District	Coventry Hous		ventry Lighting District	Cranston	Cranston	Cranston	Cranston Housing
General Employees		•		•	•			•
Police						•		
Fire	•						•	
Police and Fire								
Current Employer Unit Number(s)	1095	1096		1098	1112 1113	1114	1115	1116
Legacy Employer Unit Number	4098	3079		3045	3007	4104	4105	3051
Additions Contributions								
Member contributions	\$ 61,78		,395 \$	950				
Employer contributions	207,84	7 42	,275	-	2,516,380	1,982,3	333 1,244,667	69,091
Other (net)		-	-	-	10		- 177	-
Service credit transfers (net)		-	-	-	291,331		-	
Net investment income	877,34	2 419	,411	319,127	36,868,366	14,534,2	254 22,702,257	7 1,485,192
Total Additions	1,146,97	5 468	,081	320,077	40,393,892	17,770,4	64 25,550,160	) 1,589,873
Deductions								
Retirement benefits and refunds	364,76	8 42	,189	63,572	10,033,650	1,378,7	1,698,086	6 406,553
Administrative expense	3,34	3 1	,598	1,216	140,476	55,3	878 86,500	) 5,659
Service credit transfers (net)		- 1	,561	-	106,464		-	
Total Deductions	368,11	1 45	,348	64,788	10,280,590	1,434,(	1,784,586	6 412,212
Net Increase	778,86	4 422	,733	255,289	30,113,302	16,336,3	375 23,765,574	1,177,662
Net position held in trust for pension benefits Beginning of year	3,277,53	1 1,516	,415	1,220,195	140,347,795	50,862,8	331 81,198,438	5,689,134
End of year	\$ 4,056,39	5 \$ 1,939	,148 \$	1,475,484	\$ 170,461,097	\$ 67,199,2	206 \$ 104,964,012	2 \$ 6,866,796

Employer Unit Type	Cumberlan	d	Cumberland Fire District	Cumberland Housing	Cumberland Distri		Cumbe	erland Rescue	Ea	ast Greenwich	Eas	t Greenwich
General Employees	•			•						•		
Police												•
Fire			•		•			•				
Police and Fire												
Current Employer Unit Number(s)	1122 1123		1125	1126	1135			1148		1152 1153		1154
Legacy Employer Unit Number	3008		4106	3056	4095			4091		3009		4054
Additions Contributions												
Member contributions	\$ 175	5,443	\$ 136,063	\$ 11,698	\$	78,701	\$	118,358	\$	42,347	\$	234,092
Employer contributions	1,170	),643	311,452	34,161		266,797		138,478		82,459		721,232
Other (net)		-	-	15		-		-		-		-
Service credit transfers (net)	449	9,910	6,606,738	-		-		-		257,734		-
Net investment income	7,842	2,964	3,306,980	415,819		445,279		2,113,857		2,062,408		4,539,901
Total Additions	9,638	3,960	10,361,233	461,693		790,777		2,370,693		2,444,948		5,495,225
Deductions												
Retirement benefits and refunds	1,944	1,931	355,372	55,732		406,878		346,076		454,581		1,276,607
Administrative expense	29	9,883	12,600	1,584		1,697		8,054		7,858		17,298
Service credit transfers (net)	40	5,551	-	-	3,	140,746		-		-		-
Total Deductions	2,02	,365	367,972	57,316	3,	549,321		354,130		462,439		1,293,905
Net Increase	7,61	7,595	9,993,261	404,376	(2,	758,544)		2,016,563		1,982,508		4,201,320
Net position held in trust for pension benefits Beginning of year	28,644	1,395	5,296,581	1,518,164	4,	817,292		7,756,868		7,553,045		16,788,938
End of year	\$ 36,26	,990	\$ 15,289,842	\$ 1,922,540	\$ 2,	058,748	\$	9,773,431	\$	9,535,553	\$	20,990,258

Employer Unit Type	East Gi	reenwich	 st Greenwich Housing	E	ast Greenwich (COLA)	Eas	st Greenwich (Fire)	Eas	st Providence	t Providence Housing	Eas	st Smithfield Water
General Employees			•		•		•		•	•		•
Police												
Fire		•										
Police and Fire												
Current Employer Unit Number(s)	1	155	1156		1157 1158		1159		1162 1163	1166		1177
Legacy Employer Unit Number	40	)50	3050		3101		3150		3010	3052		3067
Additions Contributions												
Member contributions	\$	274,776	\$ 10,774	\$	163,621	\$	807	\$	491,550	\$ 16,361	\$	-
Employer contributions		888,892	61,574		297,327		7,420		4,302,014	104,545		-
Other (net)		-	-		-		-		135	-		-
Service credit transfers (net)		2,181	-		24,295		-		8,595	-		-
Net investment income		4,260,764	422,685		6,434,725		35,613		17,540,788	812,631		169,854
Total Additions		5,426,613	495,033		6,919,968		43,840		22,343,082	933,537		169,854
Deductions												
Retirement benefits and refunds		1,115,959	95,302		1,284,570		21,485		7,704,142	243,341		51,769
Administrative expense		16,234	1,611		24,518		136		66,834	3,096		647
Service credit transfers (net)		-	-		81,852		-		21,921	-		-
Total Deductions		1,132,193	96,913		1,390,940		21,621		7,792,897	246,437		52,416
Net Increase		4,294,420	398,121		5,529,028		22,219		14,550,185	687,100		117,438
Net position held in trust for pension benefits Beginning of year		15,405,247	1,556,167		24,221,958		142,436		66,549,748	3,070,105		667,882
End of year	\$	19,699,667	\$ 1,954,288	\$	29,750,986	\$	164,655	\$	81,099,933	\$ 3,757,205	\$	785,320

Employer Unit Type	Exeter/West Greenwich School District	Foster	Foster	Foster/Glocester Regional School District	Glocester	Glocester	Greenville Water
General Employees	•	•		•	•		•
Police			•			•	
Fire							
Police and Fire							
Current Employer Unit Number(s)	1183	1192 1193	1194	1203	1212 1213	1214	1227
Legacy Employer Unit Number	3011	3012	4082	3041	3013	4088	3068
Additions Contributions							
Member contributions	\$ 73,055	\$ 26,792	\$ 52,533	\$ 47,220	\$ 79,869	\$ 125,411	\$ 7,674
Employer contributions	422,882	159,105	156,863	223,764	321,059	304,498	11,395
Other (net)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Service credit transfers (net)	31,622	-	-	13,566	-	-	-
Net investment income	2,962,338	1,065,446	836,014	2,064,105	2,587,566	2,076,120	391,100
Total Additions	3,489,897	1,251,343	1,045,410	2,348,655	2,988,494	2,506,029	410,169
Deductions							
Retirement benefits and refunds	669,108	307,600	247,534	583,082	576,756	459,690	38,810
Administrative expense	11,287	4,060	3,185	7,865	9,859	7,910	1,490
Service credit transfers (net)	122,606	38,291	9,508	-	-	-	-
Total Deductions	803,001	349,951	260,227	590,947	586,615	467,600	40,300
Net Increase	2,686,896	901,392	785,182	1,757,708	2,401,879	2,038,429	369,868
Net position held in trust for pension benefits Beginning of year	11,009,491	4,024,703	3,080,131	7,785,691	9,561,746	7,560,525	1,438,383
End of year	\$ 13,696,387	\$ 4,926,095	\$ 3,865,313	\$ 9,543,399	\$ 11,963,625	\$ 9,598,954	\$ 1,808,251

Employer Unit Type	Hope Valley - Wyoming Fire District	Hopkins Hill Fire District	Hopkinton	Hopkinton	Jamestown	Johnston	Johnston
General Employees	•		•		•	•	
Police				•			•
Fire		•					
Police and Fire							
Current Employer Unit Number(s)	1242	1255	1262	1264	1272 1273	1282 1283	1284
Legacy Employer Unit Number	3046	4103	3014	4087	3015	3016	1284
Additions Contributions							
Member contributions	\$ 3,361	\$ 92,618	\$ 40,876	\$ 108,059	\$ 130,464	\$ 180,496	\$ 134,957
Employer contributions	2,807	155,227	69,703	354,866	491,144	1,276,570	135,257
Other (net)	-		-	-	-	-	-
Service credit transfers (net)	-	73	-	8,969	14,463	3,299	1,956
Net investment income	128,985	1,051,573	1,604,598	1,630,491	4,156,479	8,379,483	460,680
Total Additions	135,153	1,299,491	1,715,177	2,102,385	4,792,550	9,839,848	732,850
Deductions							
Retirement benefits and refunds	22,021	89,317	287,497	476,202	858,952	3,347,412	-
Administrative expense	491	4,007	6,114	6,213	15,837	31,928	1,755
Service credit transfers (net)	-		80,405	-	220,227	11,681	-
Total Deductions	22,512	93,324	374,016	482,415	1,095,016	3,391,021	1,755
Net Increase	112,640	1,206,168	1,341,161	1,619,970	3,697,534	6,448,827	731,093
Net position held in trust for pension benefits Beginning of year	483,722	3,655,788	6,077,706	5,918,612	15,519,969	32,293,759	1,398,861
End of year	\$ 596,362						

					L	ime Rock Fire District								
Employer Unit Type		Johnston	John	ston Housing	(/	Administrative)		Lincoln	L	Lincoln Rescue	Li	ncoln Housing	I	Viddletown
General Employees				•		•		•				•		•
Police														
Fire		•								•				
Police and Fire														
Current Employer Unit Number(s)		1285		1286		1293		1302 1303		1305		1306		1322 1323
Legacy Employer Unit Number		4016		3072		3098		3017		4107		3057		3019
Additions														
Contributions	¢		¢	4.050	ተ	F 107	¢		¢		<u>ተ</u>	10 500	¢	1 4 1 4 / 0
Member contributions	\$	456,625	\$	4,859	\$	5,127	\$	9,685	\$	85,246	\$	12,580	\$	141,468
Employer contributions		539,324		65,494		15,950		116,798		208,769		56,420		599,771
Other (net)		-		-		-		-		-		-		-
Service credit transfers (net)		-		-		-		-		-		-		-
Net investment income		3,391,126		327,483		110,522		751,253		1,162,860		446,211		5,445,969
Total Additions		4,387,075		397,836		131,599		877,736		1,456,875		515,211		6,187,208
Deductions														
Retirement benefits and refunds		228,461		112,905		14,541		109,573		352,812		140,247		1,267,096
Administrative expense		12,921		1,248		421		2,862		4,431		1,700		20,750
Service credit transfers (net)		-		-		-		106,028		-		30,681		137,146
Total Deductions		241,382		114,153		14,962		218,463		357,243		172,628		1,424,992
Net Increase		4,145,693		283,684		116,637		659,273		1,099,633		342,583		4,762,216
Net position held in trust for pension benefits Beginning of year		11,533,198		1,230,438		394,363		2,814,150		4,276,859		1,720,475		20,417,254
<u></u>														
End of year	\$	15,678,891	\$	1,514,122	\$	511,000	\$	3,473,423	\$	5,376,492	\$	2,063,058	\$	25,179,470

Employer Unit Type	Middletown	Narragansett Housing	New Shoreham	New Shoreham	Newport	Newport Housing	Newport Police Department
General Employees		•	•		•	•	
Police				•			•
Fire							
Police and Fire	•						
Current Employer Unit Number(s)	1324	1336	1342 1343	1344	1352 1353 1354	1356	1364
Legacy Employer Unit Number	4109	3043	3022	4108	3021	3069	1364
Additions Contributions	¢ 405.010	A 100	¢ (0.141	¢	¢ 410.740	¢ 24742	¢ 140.407
Member contributions	\$ 485,213						
Employer contributions	484,242	2 5,500		85,089	2,987,420	291,273	138,225
Other (net)			-	-	-	99	-
Service credit transfers (net)	3,478		498,539	-	148,690	-	-
Net investment income	3,219,400		2,230,750	472,392	13,706,867	1,770,916	358,706
Total Additions	4,192,333	3 221,454	2,984,228	597,020	17,253,725	2,096,931	637,338
Deductions							
Retirement benefits and refunds	92,763		515,702	78,805	5,275,334	749,917	-
Administrative expense	12,267	7 807	8,500	1,800	52,226	6,748	1,367
Service credit transfers (net)			-	148,690	10,982	-	-
Total Deductions	105,030	) 807	524,202	229,295	5,338,542	756,665	1,367
Net Increase	4,087,303	3 220,647	2,460,026	367,725	11,915,183	1,340,266	635,971
Net position held in trust for pension benefits Beginning of year	10,797,610	) 758,769	7,853,857	1,816,381	51,458,593	6,847,573	1,022,508
End of year	\$ 14,884,913	3 \$ 979,416	\$ 10,313,883	\$ 2,184,106	\$ 63,373,776	\$ 8,187,839	\$ 1,658,479

Employer Unit Type	North Cumberland Fire District	North Kingstown	North Kingstown	North Kingstown	North Providence	North Providence	North Providence Housing
General Employees		•			•	•	
Police			•				
Fire	•			•		•	
Police and Fire							
Current Employer Unit Number(s)	1365	1372 1373	1374	1375	1382 1383	1385	1386
Legacy Employer Unit Number	4101	3023	4056	4055	3024	4058	3066
Additions Contributions							
Member contributions	\$ 62,719						
Employer contributions	167,083			1,614,784	551,929	1,760,484	83,188
Other (net)	-	6,613		-	-	-	-
Service credit transfers (net)	-	82,700		-	63,588	-	-
Net investment income	620,200			9,633,736	7,934,032	9,903,795	229,151
Total Additions	850,002	15,910,935	8,648,263	11,767,577	8,694,531	12,250,894	318,393
Deductions							
Retirement benefits and refunds	311,853	4,526,989	1,581,729	2,636,023	1,956,546	3,019,059	148,738
Administrative expense	2,363	50,916	26,232	36,706	30,230	37,735	873
Service credit transfers (net)	3,459,812	501,349	-	489,583	14,625	-	-
Total Deductions	3,774,028	5,079,254	1,607,961	3,162,312	2,001,401	3,056,794	149,611
Net Increase	(2,924,026	) 10,831,681	7,040,302	8,605,265	6,693,130	9,194,100	168,782
Net position held in trust for pension benefits Beginning of year	5,791,525	50,952,988	24,790,838	35,936,369	29,989,913	36,596,152	890,698
End of year	\$ 2,867,499	\$ 61,784,669	\$ 31,831,140	\$ 44,541,634	\$ 36,683,043	\$ 45,790,252	\$ 1,059,480

Employer Unit Type	No	orth Smithfield	No	orth Smithfield	Nor	th Smithfield Fire and Rescue	Northern RI Collaborative	Pawtucket	Pav	vtucket Housing	Portsmouth
General Employees		•					•	•		•	
Police				•							•
Fire						•					
Police and Fire											
Current Employer Unit Number(s)		1392 1393		1394		1395 1435	1403	1412 1413		1416	1424
Legacy Employer Unit Number		3025		4076		4047	3081	3026		3053	1424
Additions Contributions											
Member contributions	\$	97,357	\$	201,437	\$	154,255	\$ 24,011	\$ 601,243	\$	105,133	\$ 148,847
Employer contributions		228,401		498,153		249,919	103,482	3,041,226		-	1,358,873
Other (net)		-		11		-	-	404		-	-
Service credit transfers (net)		159,981		-		-	-	71,266		-	-
Net investment income		4,164,880		2,902,689		2,381,092	788,393	25,608,647		4,233,614	415,657
Total Additions		4,650,619		3,602,290		2,785,266	915,886	29,322,786		4,338,747	1,923,377
Deductions											
Retirement benefits and refunds		987,100		774,035		476,435	214,461	7,472,458		600,097	-
Administrative expense		15,869		11,060		9,072	3,004	97,574		16,131	1,584
Service credit transfers (net)		31,622		-		-	-	298,626		18,421	-
Total Deductions		1,034,591		785,095		485,507	217,465	7,868,658		634,649	1,584
Net Increase		3,616,028		2,817,195		2,299,758	698,421	21,454,128		3,704,098	1,921,793
Net position held in trust for pension benefits Beginning of year		15,640,318		10,603,403		8,709,233	2,946,718	96,947,594		15,870,041	-
End of year	\$	19,256,346	\$	13,420,598	\$	11,008,991	\$ 3,645,139	\$ 118,401,722	\$	19,574,139	\$ 1,921,793

Employer Unit Type	Portsmouth	Richmond	Richmond	Scituate	Scituate	Smithfield	Smithfield
General Employees		•		•			•
Police			•		•		
Fire	•					•	
Police and Fire							
Current Employer Unit Number(s)	1425	1452	1454	1462 1463	1464	1465	1472 1473
Legacy Employer Unit Number	1425	3029	4029	3030	4073	1465	3031
Additions							
Additions Contributions							
Member contributions	\$ 105,620	\$ 27,891	\$ 80,177	\$ 97,452	\$ -	\$ 200,226	\$ 85,197
Employer contributions	105,943	117,144	108,507	586,545	Ψ	181,811	363,487
Other (net)		-			-		-
Service credit transfers (net)	652,185	188,557	-	-	-	-	-
Net investment income	349,983	763,959	748,231	3,005,876	67,567	729,681	3,397,195
Total Additions	1,213,731	1,097,551	936,915	3,689,873	67,567	1,111,718	3,845,879
Deductions							
Deductions		174.400	04,000	074 500	2 ( 00		010 004
Retirement benefits and refunds	-	174,499	26,392	874,508	3,609	-	910,204
Administrative expense	1,333	2,911	2,851	11,453	257	2,780	12,944
Service credit transfers (net)	-	8,969	-	-	-	-	-
Total Deductions	1,333	186,379	29,243	885,961	3,866	2,780	923,148
Net Increase	1,212,398	911,172	907,672	2,803,912	63,700	1,108,938	2,922,731
Net position held in trust for pension benefits							
Beginning of year	405,752	2,620,997	2,551,779	11,093,773	248,695	2,264,747	12,784,220
End of year	\$ 1,618,150	\$ 3,532,169	\$ 3,459,451	\$ 13,897,685	\$ 312,395	\$ 3,373,685	\$ 15,706,951

Employer Unit Type		Smithfield	Smi	thfield Housing	Sm	ithfield (COLA)		Scituate	Sou	th Kingstown	So	uth Kingstown		th Kingstown Housing
General Employees				•		•				•				•
Police		•						•				•		
Fire														
Police and Fire														
Current Employer Unit Number(s)		1474		1476		1478		1484		1492 1493		1494		1496
Legacy Employer Unit Number		4031		3084		3094		1484		3032		4063		3080
Additions														
Contributions														
Member contributions	\$	329,627	¢	7,505	¢	140,453	¢	47,736	¢	370,253	¢	389,375	¢	4,008
Employer contributions	φ	329,027	φ	2,025	φ	444,713	φ	47,730	φ	1,655,036	φ	1,080,517	φ	4,000
Other (net)		375,220		2,025		444,713		42,342		1,000,000		1,000,017		1,202
Service credit transfers (net)		-		-		0		- 9,508		- 52,216		-		24,912
Net investment income		- 5,313,731		- 178,894		- 4,511,620		9,508 99,382		15,575,156		- 6,991,367		149,834
Total Additions		6,038,578		178,894		5,096,794		198,968		17,652,661		8,461,259		179,956
		0,030,370		100,424		5,070,774		170,700		17,032,001		0,401,237		177,730
Deductions														
Retirement benefits and refunds		490,997		-		904,391		-		4,252,067		1,897,520		21,573
Administrative expense		20,246		682		17,190		379		59,345		26,639		571
Service credit transfers (net)		-		-		-		-		615,898		-		-
Total Deductions		511,243		682		921,581		379		4,927,310		1,924,159		22,144
Net Increase		5,527,335		187,742		4,175,213		198,589		12,725,351		6,537,100		157,812
Net position held in trust for pension benefits Beginning of year		19,040,732		639,374		16,684,287		260,903		59,286,469		25,787,524		534,945
End of year	\$	24,568,067	\$	827,116	\$	20,859,500	\$	459,492	\$	72,011,820	\$	32,324,624	\$	692,757

Employer Unit Type	South Kingstown (EMT)	Union Fire District	Tiogue Lighting and Fire District	Tiverton	Tiverton	Tiverton (Local 2670A)	Valley Falls Fire District
General Employees		•	•	•		•	
Police							
Fire	•				•		•
Police and Fire							
Current Employer Unit Number(s)	1505	1515	1528	1532 1533	1534	1538	1555
Legacy Employer Unit Number	4099	3027	3042	3033	4077	3077	4042
Additions Contributions							
Member contributions	\$ 108,297	\$ 3,391	\$-	\$ 103,539	\$ 200,562	\$ 24,170	\$ 61,106
Employer contributions	37,579	21,546	-	138,575	473,099	113,353	180,739
Other (net)	11	-	-	-	95	-	-
Service credit transfers (net)	-	-	-	9,750	23,841	-	-
Net investment income	1,334,293	257,847	13,276	3,839,838	3,086,289	1,098,014	1,050,199
Total Additions	1,480,180	282,784	13,276	4,091,702	3,783,886	1,235,537	1,292,044
Deductions							
Retirement benefits and refunds	133,691	81,705	2,104	794,763	830,608	305,955	282,445
Administrative expense	5,084	982	51	14,631	11,759	4,184	4,001
Service credit transfers (net)	2,232	-	-	14,463	3,478	-	-
Total Deductions	141,007	82,687	2,155	823,857	845,845	310,139	286,446
Net Increase	1,339,173	200,097	11,122	3,267,845	2,938,040	925,399	1,005,598
Net position held in trust for pension benefits Beginning of year	4,829,938	992,061	50,262	14,485,667	11,331,433	4,151,277	3,850,004
End of year	\$ 6,169,111	\$ 1,192,158	\$ 61,384	\$ 17,753,512	\$ 14,269,473	\$ 5,076,676	\$ 4,855,602

Employer Unit Type	Warren	Warren	W	arren Housing	V	Nest Greenwich	V	Nest Greenwich	West Warwick Housing	Westerly
General Employees	•			•		•			•	•
Police										
Fire										
Police and Fire		•						•		
Current Employer Unit Number(s)	1562	1564 1565		1566		1602		1604	1616	1622 1623
Legacy Employer Unit Number	3034	4062		3071		3037		4089	3083	3036
Additions Contributions										
Member contributions	\$ 76,052	\$ 195,289	\$	9,038	\$	29,449	\$	107,773	\$ 11,403	\$ -
Employer contributions	274,364	547,814		19,475		191,861		254,666	136,242	181,261
Other (net)	-	-		-		-		-	-	-
Service credit transfers (net)	-	-		-		122,606		2,232	-	-
Net investment income	1,737,550	3,357,085		289,040		940,316		1,497,072	429,808	191,974
Total Additions	 2,087,966	4,100,188		317,553		1,284,232		1,861,743	577,453	373,235
Deductions										
Retirement benefits and refunds	373,371	850,668		113,489		211,253		282,471	148,508	145,313
Administrative expense	6,620	12,791		1,101		3,583		5,704	1,638	731
Service credit transfers (net)	-	-		-		73		-	-	-
Total Deductions	 379,991	863,459		114,590		214,909		288,175	150,146	146,044
Net Increase	 1,707,975	3,236,729		202,963		1,069,323		1,573,568	427,308	227,191
Net position held in trust for pension benefits Beginning of year	6,325,599	12,284,773		1,133,417		3,278,232		5,348,152	1,559,913	660,404
End of year	\$ 8,033,574	\$ 15,521,502	\$	1,336,380	\$	4,347,555	\$	6,921,720	\$ 1,987,221	\$ 887,595

Employer Unit Type	Woonsocket	V	Noonsocket	Woonsocket	Alb	ion Fire District	AI	bion Fire District	ł	Harrisville Fire District	Ha	nrisville Fire District
General Employees	•					•				•		
Police			•									
Fire				•				•				•
Police and Fire												
Current Employer Unit Number(s)	1632 1633		1634	1635		1702		1705		1712		1715
Legacy Employer Unit Number	3039		4085	4093		3103		4111		3102		4110
Additions Contributions							•					
Member contributions	\$ 332,255	\$	712,704	\$ 762,841	\$	-	\$	31,072	\$	11,312	\$	50,591
Employer contributions	1,458,978		2,071,704	1,039,052		-		58,975		14,663		36,072
Other (net)	56		712	-		-		-		-		-
Service credit transfers (net)	834,363		-	-		-		-		-		-
Net investment income	16,237,467		12,017,269	14,928,327		35,839		337,528		297,478		599,284
Total Additions	 18,863,119		14,802,389	16,730,220		35,839		427,575		323,453		685,947
Deductions												
Retirement benefits and refunds	5,158,856		2,903,379	2,427,802		9,474		93,261		-		-
Administrative expense	61,868		45,788	56,880		137		1,286		1,133		2,283
Service credit transfers (net)	1,026,406		-	1,630		-		-		-		-
Total Deductions	 6,247,130		2,949,167	2,486,312		9,611		94,547		1,133		2,283
Net Increase	 12,615,989		11,853,222	14,243,907		26,228		333,028		322,320		683,664
Net position held in trust for pension benefits Beginning of year	62,458,029		43,708,690	54,777,294		139,473		1,227,534		1,053,073		2,087,131
End of year	\$ 75,074,018	\$	55,561,912	\$ 69,021,201	\$	165,701	\$	1,560,562	\$	1,375,393	\$	2,770,795

Employer Unit Type	Pascoag Fire District (Administrative)	Pascoag Fire District	Saylesville Fire District		
General Employees	•				
Police					Total
Fire		•	•		
Police and Fire					
Current Employer Unit Number(s)	1802	1805	1815		
Legacy Employer Unit Number	1802	1805	1815		
Additions					
Contributions					
Member contributions	\$-	\$ 27,636		\$	19,495,261
Employer contributions	-	69,753	21,996		61,636,329
Other (net)	-	-	-		8,529
Service credit transfers (net)	-	-	-		11,083,939
Net investment income	11,285	171,132	31,003		449,777,894
Total Additions	11,285	268,521	68,887		542,001,952
Deductions					
Retirement benefits and refunds	-	-	-	\$	113,448,170
Administrative expense	43	652	118		1,713,745
Service credit transfers (net)	-	-	-		11,254,958
Total Deductions	43	652	118	_	126,416,873
Net Increase	11,242	267,869	68,769		415,585,079
Net position held in trust					
for pension benefits					
Beginning of year	40,933	523,362	74,574		1,663,965,518
End of year	\$ 52,175	\$ 791,231	\$ 143,343	\$	2,079,550,597

### EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND Municipal Employees' Retirement System - Multiple-Employer Defined Benefit Agent Plan Notes to Schedule of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position by Employer Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2021

#### 1. Plan Description and Governance

The Employees' Retirement System of the State of Rhode Island (the System) acts as a common investment and administrative agent for pension benefits to be provided through various defined benefit and defined contribution retirement plans. The System is administered by the State of Rhode Island Retirement Board which was authorized, created and established as an independent retirement board to hold and administer, in trust, the funds of the retirement system.

Each plan's assets are accounted for separately and may be used only for the payment of benefits to the members of that plan, in accordance with the terms of that plan.

The Municipal Employees' Retirement System (MERS) was established by Rhode Island General Law and placed under the management of the Retirement Board to provide retirement allowances to employees of municipalities, housing authorities, water and sewer districts, and municipal police and fire persons that have elected to participate. MERS is a multiple-employer defined benefit agent plan.

#### 2. Plan Membership and Benefit Provisions

#### Participating employers are summarized below:

Municipalities, housing authorities, water and sewer districts	69
Municipal police and fire departments	52
Total participating units as of the actuarial valuation at June 30, 2020	<u>121</u>

### Plan members (as of the June 30, 2020 valuation date):

	Retirees and beneficiaries	Terminated plan members entitled to but not yet receiving benefits	Active Vested	Active Non-vested	Total by Plan
MERS General Employees Public Safety	4,880 1,015	3,231 232	3,988 1,181	1,948 526	14,047 2,954
Total by type	5,895	3,463	5,169	2,474	17,001

Plan vesting provisions – after five years of service.

**Retirement eligibility and plan benefits** – For general employees prior to June 30, 2012 the plan provided retirement benefits equal to 2% of a member's final average salary multiplied by the number of years of total service up to a maximum of 75%. Such benefits are available to members at least age 58 with 10 years of service or after 30 years of service at any age. Benefits accrued at June 30, 2012 are protected under the Rhode Island Retirement Security Act until it is exceeded by the member's full years of service credit, including service after June 30, 2012, multiplied by the average of five consecutive years of compensation. Effective July 1, 2012 the retirement age mirrors the Social Security Normal Retirement Age not to exceed age 67. Members will receive a benefit accrual of 1.0% per year based on the five-year average compensation.

## EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND Municipal Employees' Retirement System - Multiple-Employer Defined Benefit Agent Plan Notes to Schedule of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position by Employer Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2021

### 2. Plan Membership and Benefit Provisions (continued)

Effective July 1, 2015 general employees with more than 20 years of service at July 1, 2012 will increase their employee contribution rates to 8.25% (9.25% for units with a cost of living adjustment provision) and will participate solely in the defined benefit plan. Members will receive a benefit accrual of 2% per year based on the five-year average compensation.

Effective July 1, 2015 general employees are eligible to retire upon the attainment of: age 65 with 30 years of service, 64 with 31 years of service, 63 with 32 years of service, or 62 with 33 years of service. Members may retire earlier if their RIRSA date is earlier or are eligible under a transition rule.

Joint and survivor options are available. For members with 10 years of service as of July 1, 2005, the Service Retirement Allowance (SRA) Plus option provides for the payment of a larger benefit before the attainment of age sixty-two (62) and a reduced amount thereafter. The reduced amount is equal to the benefit before age sixty-two (62), including cost-of-living increases, minus the member's estimated social security benefit payable at age sixty-two (62).

Prior to June 30, 2012, police and fire personnel may retire at age 55 if they have 10 years of service or after 25 years of service at any age. An option may be elected to provide a 20-year service pension with a benefit equal to 2.5% for each year of service up to a maximum of 75% for police and fire personnel. Benefits are based on the average of the highest three consecutive years' earnings, exclusive of overtime.

From June 30, 2012 to June 30, 2015, retirement age for police and fire personnel is 55 years old with 25 years of total service or for members with five years of service but less than 25 years of service the new retirement age will mirror the Social Security Normal Retirement Age not to exceed 67. Police officers or firefighters, that are at least 45 years old, have 10 or more years of contributing service and are eligible to retire prior to age 52 under the law in effect on June 30, 2012, may retire at age 52. Effective July 1, 2015, police and fire personnel may retire at age 50 with 25 years of service, or any age with 27 years of service. MERS police and fire personnel will contribute 9.00% (10.00% for units with a cost of living adjustment).

As of June 30, 2012, members will continue to have a frozen benefit accrual of 2.0% per year for a standard 25 year with any age and out plan; 2.5% for a standard 20 year with any age and out plan. Effective July 1, 2012 the optional 20 and 25 year with retirement at any age plans have been eliminated. The benefit accrual for all plans will be 2.0% per year based on the five-year average compensation, exclusive of overtime. Police and fire employees may retire with a reduced pension benefit if they have 20 years of service and are within five years of their retirement eligibility. The actuarially reduced benefit will be calculated based on how close the member is to the eligibility date that is prescribed in the Rhode Island Retirement Security Act.

The plan also provides survivor's benefits; and certain lump sum death benefits.

*Cost of Living Adjustments* – An optional cost-of-living provision may be elected for police and fire personnel and general employees. The Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) has been suspended for any unit whose funding level is less than 80%. The COLA provision will be reviewed in a four-year interval while the plans are less than 80% funded. When the funding level of a plan exceeds 80% funded eligible retirees may receive a COLA annually effective on the date of their retirement plus one month.

The COLA calculation is represented by the following formula: 50% of the COLA is calculated by taking the previous 5-year average investment return, less 5% (5-year return – 5.0%, with a max of 4%) and 50% calculated using the increase in the CPI-U from the prior September 30 (max of 3%) for a total maximum COLA of 3.5%.

### EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

### Municipal Employees' Retirement System - Multiple-Employer Defined Benefit Agent Plan Notes to Schedule of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position by Employer Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2021

#### 2. Plan Membership and Benefit Provisions (continued)

The benefit adjustments are provided to all retirees entitled to receive a benefit adjustment as of June 30, 2012 under the law then in effect, and for all other retirees the benefit adjustments shall commence upon the third anniversary of the date of retirement or the date on which the retiree reaches his or her Social Security retirement age, whichever is later. For police and fire employees that retired under the provisions of § 45-21.2-5(b)(1)(A), the benefit adjustment provided shall commence on the later of the third anniversary of the date of retirement or the date on which the retiree reaches age fifty-five (55); or for police and fire employees retiring under the provisions of §45-21.2-5(b)(1)(B), the benefit adjustment shall commence on the later of the third anniversary of the date of retirement or the date on which the retiree reaches age fifty (50). For all present and former employees, active and retired members, and beneficiaries receiving any retirement, disability or death allowance or benefit of any kind, the annual benefit adjustment provided in any calendar year is equal to the lesser of either the member's retirement allowance or the first \$27,068 (indexed as of January 1, 2021) of retirement allowance, multiplied by the percentage resulting from the COLA calculation as outlined in the preceding paragraph. The retirement amount subject to the COLA calculation is indexed annually in the same percentage as the COLA determination and is run annually regardless of the collective funding status.

For members and/or beneficiaries of members who retired on or before June 30, 2015, the current indexed amount of \$27,608 is replaced with \$33,130 (indexed as of January 1, 2021) until the municipal plan's funded ratio, calculated by the system's actuary, exceeds eighty percent (80%). At such time, the benefit adjustments will then be provided on the lower amount (currently indexed at \$27,608).

The actual COLA paid to retirees effective January 1, 2021 within MERS units that had achieved an 80% funding status was 1.06%. Retirees within 58 MERS units received the COLA.

*Disability retirement provisions* - The plan also provides nonservice-connected disability benefits after 5 years of service and service-connected disability pensions with no minimum service requirement.

#### 3. Relationship to the Plan Financial Statements

Contributions, benefits and net position are maintained for each MERS employer unit. Certain costs which are common to the administration of the overall pension system are allocated first to each plan and then to each MERS employer unit.

This report was prepared to provide participating employers with additional information needed to comply with the financial reporting requirements of GASB Statement No. 68 *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions*. Additional financial information for the Employees' Retirement System of Rhode Island (including the MERS plan) is available in the System's audited financial statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021 at <u>www.ersri.org</u>.

Certain additions and deductions are presented differently on the Schedule of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position by Employer from the presentation in the System's audited financial statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021.

Rounding results in minor differences between the Schedule of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position by Employer and the System's audited financial statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021.

### EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

### Municipal Employees' Retirement System - Multiple-Employer Defined Benefit Agent Plan Notes to Schedule of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position by Employer Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2021

#### 4. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

**Basis of Accounting** – The financial statements of the System are prepared on the accrual basis of accounting. Under this method, revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when incurred.

These financial statements were prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America as prescribed by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB). The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is responsible for establishing generally accepted accounting principles for defined benefit and defined contribution plans established and administered by governmental entities.

**Cash and Cash Equivalents** - Cash represents cash held in trust in a financial institution. Cash equivalents are highly liquid investments with a maturity of three months or less at the time of purchase.

**Investments** - Investment transactions are recorded on a trade date basis. Gains or losses on foreign currency exchange contracts are included in income consistent with changes in the underlying exchange rates. Dividend income is recorded on the ex-dividend date. MERS holds units in the System's Pooled Investment Trust. The number of units held by each plan within the System is a function of each plans' respective contribution to, or withdrawals from, the trust. Investment expense is allocated to each plan based on the plan's units in the Pooled Trust at the end of each month.

**Method Used to Value Investments** - Investments are recorded in the financial statements at fair value. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date.

Short-term investments are generally carried at cost or amortized cost, which approximates fair value.

The fair value of fixed income securities and domestic and international equity securities is generally based on published market prices and quotations from national security exchanges and securities pricing services.

Commingled funds and collective unit trusts include institutional international equity index funds and an emerging markets debt fund. The fair value of these funds is based on the reported net asset value (NAV) based upon the fair value of the underlying securities or assets held in the fund.

Derivative investments (e.g., futures contracts and credit default swaps) are valued at the settlement price established each day by the board of trade or exchange on which they are traded.

The System also trades in foreign exchange contracts to manage exposure to foreign currency risks. Such contracts are used to purchase and sell foreign currency at a guaranteed future price. The change in the estimated fair value of these contracts, which reflects current foreign exchange rates, is included in the determination of the fair value of the System's investments.

Other investments that are not traded on a national security exchange (primarily private equity, real estate, hedge funds, infrastructure investments, Crisis Protection Class – trend following, and emerging markets debt) investments) are valued based on the reported Net Asset Value (NAV) by the fund manager or general partner. Publicly traded investments held by the funds or partnerships are valued based on quoted market prices. If not publicly traded, the fair value is determined by the general partner following U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. Financial Accounting Standards Board ASC Topic 820, Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures, requires the limited partnership general partners for these investment types to value non-publicly traded assets at current fair value, taking into consideration the financial performance of the issuer, cash flow analysis, recent sales prices, market comparable

### EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND Municipal Employees' Retirement System - Multiple-Employer Defined Benefit Agent Plan Notes to Schedule of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position by Employer Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2021

### 4. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

transactions, a new round of financing, a change in economic conditions, and other pertinent information.

Hedge funds, private equity, real estate, private infrastructure and crisis protection class – trend following investments and emerging markets debt represented 6.2%, 14.4%, 5.2%, 2.4%, 4.6% and 1.8% respectively of the total reported fair value of all pooled trust investments at June 30, 2021.

**Investment expenses –** Investment expenses include investment consultant fees, custodial fees, direct investment expenses paid to managers, and certain indirect expenses allocated by managers to fund or partnership investors. Certain Office of the General Treasurer expenses associated with oversight of the pooled investment trust are also allocated and included as investment expenses. When indirect investment expenses for certain types of investments (e.g., hedge funds, private equity, real estate, infrastructure, emerging markets debt, and crisis protection class), are not reported separately to System management and the investment custodian, additional information is obtained to allow reporting of the System's share of such indirect investment expenses on a gross fee basis.

**Contributions** - Plan member contributions for the defined benefit plans are recognized in the period in which the wages, subject to required contributions, are earned for the performance of duties for covered employment. Employer contributions to each defined benefit plan are recognized when due and the employer has made a formal commitment to provide the contributions.

**Benefits** - Benefits and refunds are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the terms of each plan.

**Prepaid Assets –** These assets represent the amounts paid to a vendor pursuant to a contract to design, transition, and implement new line-of-business, general ledger accounting system, and payroll administration systems. Under the new system development and operations contract, the vendor will supply and operate the system for the contract period. Consequently, no capital asset related to the new system are recognized or depreciated. The amounts paid before the system became operational have been accounted for as prepaid assets items in prior years. Beginning in fiscal year 2017, when system operations fully commenced, that prepaid amount is amortized ratably over the remaining contract period.

**Use of Estimates –** The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosures of contingencies. These estimates are subject to a certain amount of uncertainty in the near term, which could result in changes in the values reported for those assets in the statements of fiduciary net position. Because of the inherent uncertainty in the valuation of privately held securities, the fair value may differ from the values that would have been used if a ready market for such securities existed, and the difference can be material. Estimates also affect the reported amounts of income/additions and expenses/deductions during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

### 5. Contributions

Contribution requirements for plan members and employers are established pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws. Employers are required to contribute at an actuarially determined rate for the defined benefit plans. Plan member contributions for the defined benefit plan are fixed by statute. Member and employer contribution rates are subject to amendment by the General Assembly.

### EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

## Municipal Employees' Retirement System - Multiple-Employer Defined Benefit Agent Plan Notes to Schedule of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position by Employer Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2021

### 5. Contributions (continued)

### (a). Funding Policy

The funding policies, as set forth in Rhode Island General Law, Section 36-10-2 and 45-21-42 provide for actuarially determined periodic contributions to the plans. The actuarial valuation uses the Entry Age Normal actuarial cost method. Under this method, the employer contribution rate is the sum of (i) the employer normal cost rate, and (ii) a rate that will amortize the unfunded actuarial liability. The valuation is prepared on the projected benefit basis, under which the present value, at the assumed rate of return (currently 7.0 percent), of each participant's expected benefit payable at retirement or death is determined, based on age, service, gender and compensation.

The employer contributions required to support the benefits of the Plan are determined following a level funding approach, and consist of a normal contribution and an accrued liability contribution. The normal contribution is determined using the "entry age normal" method. Under this method, a calculation is made to determine the rate of contribution which, if applied to the compensation of each individual member during the entire period of anticipated covered service, would be required to meet the cost of all benefits payable on his behalf. This method is commonly referred to as the Individual Entry Age Actuarial Cost Method.

The unfunded actuarial accrued liability (UAAL) is amortized as a level percent of payroll over a closed period. For underfunded plans, the period is 25 years as measured from June 30, 2010, or 21 years as of the current valuation date for any existing UAAL. Beginning with the June 30, 2014 actuarial valuation, new experience gains and losses for underfunded plans are amortized over individual closed periods of 20 years using the process of "laddering". Overfunded plans will have an amortization rate calculated using a single base amortized over an open period of 20 years.

### (b). Contribution rates

Employer contribution rates for fiscal 2021 for MERS employers were developed based on actuarial valuations performed as of June 30, 2018. Employee contribution rates are statutorily determined. The table below displays the contribution rates for the year ended June 30, 2021:

Plan	Employee	Employer
General Employees	1.00% (additional 1% with a cost-of-living adjustment) Effective July 1, 2015, members with 20 or more years of service at June 30, 2012 contribute an additional 7.25%	69 Municipalities, housing authorities, water and sewer districts contributed various actuarially determined rates.
Public Safety	9.00% (additional 1% with a cost-of-living adjustment)	52 Municipal police and fire departments contributed various actuarially determined rates.

### EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

### Municipal Employees' Retirement System - Multiple-Employer Defined Benefit Agent Plan Notes to Schedule of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position by Employer Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2021

#### 6. Administrative Expenses

Pursuant to General Law section 36-8-10.1, administrative costs of the System are financed through investment earnings up to a maximum of 0.175% of the average total investments before lending activities as reported in the annual report of the Auditor General for the next preceding five (5) fiscal years. Such amounts are transferred to a restricted receipt account within the State's general fund. Any unencumbered funds on June 30 of any fiscal year are credited to the plans in the same proportion as their contributions to the restricted receipt account.

Administrative expenses of the System, financed as described in the preceding paragraph, include expenses within the Office of General Treasurer related to oversight of the System's investment portfolio. Consistent with generally accepted accounting principles, these expenses have been included with net investment income (loss) on the Schedule of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position by Employer.

#### 7. Commitments

The State Investment Commission has committed to fund certain private equity, real estate, and infrastructure investment managers at a predetermined subscription amount. Outstanding unfunded investment commitments at June 30, 2021 totaled \$1.6 billion for the pooled investment trust. These commitments will be funded through cash available within the pooled investment trust generated through investment income and/or liquidation of other investments.

The system's investments in hedge funds are generally subject to "lock-up" provisions that limit (subject to certain exceptions) the ability to withdraw amounts previously invested for a period of one to three years after the initial investment. The System's investments in hedge fund assets are available for redemption either on a monthly, quarterly, semi-annual or annual basis, and are subject to notice periods which vary by fund and range from 30 days to 75 days. Some funds limit redemptions to 25% of invested capital on any one redemption date. At June 30, 2021 \$738,491 was in liquidation.

The System is committed under a ten-year development and operating agreement to design, transition, and implement new line-of-business, general ledger accounting system, and payroll administration systems. The contract requires monthly payments through fiscal 2025. Total payments over the contract period are estimated at \$22 million.