



Memorandum

TO: RULES AND OPEN GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE **FROM:** Councilmember Donald Rocha

SUBJECT: REPORT OF THE COUNCIL LIAISON TO THE RETIREMENT BOARDS **DATE:** February 28, 2012

Approved

Don Rocha

Date

2/28/12

RECOMMENDATION

That the Rules Committee direct staff to provide the Council with written materials summarizing meetings of the City's two Retirement Boards.

ANALYSIS

Over the past year, Councilmember Constant has been providing the Council with regular verbal updates on retirement board activity under a standing item on the Council agenda. I appreciate the work Councilmember Constant puts into this endeavor, but I do think the verbal format of the report does have drawbacks. Most of the time, when the Council is provided with information on detailed and complex issues, we receive a written report that allows us to prepare for the meeting and fully digest the material. Given that pension issues are some of the most complicated that the Council ever deals with, I think it makes sense for the Council to have some written information from our professional Retirement Services staff about the board meetings so that we have an opportunity to review it carefully and fully understand it. In my humble opinion, the suggestion that the Council should watch hours of retirement board meetings or send Council staff from each individual office instead of reading a short written report does not seem to me to be an efficient use of our time or resources.

If Councilmember Constant would prefer not to provide a written report, I encourage the committee to ask staff to find some way of getting summary information to the Council in writing.