

November 16, 2022

City of Baltimore
Rules and Legislative Oversight Committee
100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

RE: Baltimore City Employee Retirement System Board of Trustees

Rules and Legislative Oversight Committee:

Today, I am pleased to share with you my interest in serving as a Board Trustee for the Baltimore City Employee Retirement System, as well as outline my career experience and investment philosophy. To have an opportunity to serve Baltimore City; a city that has given so much to me, will truly stand out as one of the most valued achievements in my civic and professional life.

As a financial professional, particularly in the fields of investment management, retirement, and banking, I am prepared to serve the employees and retirees of Baltimore City. Over the past 24 years, I've studied, practiced, managed, and distributed financial services in the United States and abroad. Through employer-sponsored retirement plans, the American workforce provides capital for business and industry across the globe. From investing in emerging markets in the Far East, to capitalizing growth for our favorite corporations here in Maryland. Our retirement savings not only provide us with income during the next phase of our lives, but they also support the global economy.

My priority as a trustee will be to use career experience and civic interest to safeguard the hard-earned retirement assets of Baltimore City employees and retirees. This will be done through prudent evaluations of investment management, plan design, and regulatory requirements. It will also be my priority to support education models for the participants of the retirement system, to foster financial literacy and money management best practices. In addition, I believe it is also important to carefully evaluate the underlying companies who receive ongoing capital from the pension system, to make sure their assets are expanding healthy economies and not funding harmful regimes or foreign markets that threaten the United States.

I believe employer-sponsored retirement plans are vehicles designed to help working-class Americans create wealth through their contributions and additional employee benefits. After decades of helping families and small businesses in this field, it will be a great honor to serve the employees of Baltimore City in this capacity.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Byron T. Deese', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Byron T. Deese,
Baltimore City Employee Retirement System Board of Trustees Nominee