**MINUTES**

**METROPOLITAN EMPLOYEE BENEFIT BOARD**

**IN LINE OF DUTY COMMITTEE**

**September 15, 2026**

The Metropolitan Employee Benefit Board's In Line of Duty Committee met on Tuesday, September 15, 2026 in the Sonny West Conference Room, Howard Office Building, 700 President Ronald Reagan Way, Nashville, Tennessee at approximately 9:30 a.m.

Committee Members present: Chair: Robert Weaver; Vice-Chair: Shannon Hall; Members: *G. Thomas Curtis and Jonathan Puckett. Alternate (s): Harold W. Finch, II.

Others present: Christina Hickey, Metro Human Resources, Nicki Eke and Abby Greer, Metro Legal. Courtney Hughes and Vickie Hampton, Acrisure and Dr. Kenton Dodd, Civil Service Medical Examiner.

The Human Resources staff submitted the following for the Committee's consideration and appropriate action:

1. Public Comment Period

   A maximum of five (5) persons who write their names on the sign-up sheet provided at the meeting will be allowed to comment on matters that are germane to items on the Agenda. Comments are limited to a maximum of two (2) minutes per person. To provide comment, you must sign up prior to the beginning of the meeting.

There were no public comments.

2. In line of duty medical care appeal – Pensioner from the Fire Department.

Christina Hickey reported to the Committee this item was deferred from the last meeting due to counsel not being available.

The pensioner and his attorney, Dewey Branstetter, were present.

Courtney Hughes, Acrisure, reviewed the claim with the Committee. She reviewed the positions that the pensioner held with the Fire Department, when the 101 Form was filed (8/9/24), and his diagnosis of non-small cell lung cancer. She stated that the medical records were reviewed by Reliable Review Services, (RRS) and indicated that he is a chronic smoker with a 50-year smoking history and that smoking accounted for 75% and occupational exposure was 25%. She stated that even though his treating physician indicates that it is 50/50 the denial be upheld based on the report from RRS. She stated that the pensioner has not worked for the Fire Department since 1990, remained an active smoker since the diagnosis and did not file the claim until 2024. She also stated it appears that the presumption does not apply in this case.

*Denotes the arrival of Tom Curtis.

Dewey Branstetter addressed the Committee regarding the claim. Mr. Branstetter stated that the pensioner retired in 1990 on an injury on duty pension due to lung problems and requests that this be related to the original injury on duty from 1990.

The pensioner addressed the Committee regarding the claim. He described his working conditions, equipment used prior to his retirement and not being released to return to work by the Civil Service Medical Examiner after major lung surgery. He also stated that after the cancer diagnosis all of his lung related issues stopped being paid for under injury on duty.

2. In line of duty medical care appeal – Pensioner from the Fire Department. (continued)

There was some discussion of the medical record and there being no information related to an injury on duty pension.

Addis Kendall, Union representative, addressed the Committee regarding a request for information regarding the disability pension.

After some discussion of providing the information related to the injury on duty, Tom Curtis moved to defer this item to the next In Line of Duty Committee meeting. Shannon Hall seconded.

After some discussion of there being no medical records at Lentz related to the pensioner during his employment and the timeline of this claim, a vote was taken on the motion to defer this item and was approved without objection.

3. In line of duty medical care appeal – Employee from Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools (MNPS).

The employee was present.

Courtney Hughes, Acrisure, reviewed the claim with the Committee. She stated that a 101 Form was filed on 8/24/26 indicating issues with her blood sugar and a fall from her leg scooter. She stated a 201 Form was completed at the injury on duty clinic on the same day and the description of the injury stated the patient forgot to take her medication, felt dizzy, passed out, fell off her scooter and injured both feet. She was diagnosed with bilateral foot sprain and the condition was marked as not work related with a pre-existing condition contributing to previous foot injuries. She stated that during the recorded statement she indicated that there was nothing that actually caused her to fall and based on examination of the patient and job duties it does not appear that the presenting complaints arose out of their job duties in the course of the employee performing those duties. She also stated that she has prior injuries and surgeries to both feet that are not injury on duty and it is Acrisure position that the denial be upheld based on the incident did not occur in the course and scope of employment.

The employee addressed the Committee regarding the claim. She stated that she is suppose to be under ADA accommodations, however, she was not following those accommodations at the time and this did happen at work and it's the reason for another surgery.

After some discussion of this not being a work-related incident, Shannon Hall moved to uphold the denial of the claim. Tom Curtis seconded.

After some discussion of a representative from MNPS being present and obtaining additional information regarding the incident, the motion was withdrawn.

Tom Curtis moved to defer this item to the next meeting.

It was also noted that there would be surveillance footage of the incident due to where it took place as a part of the MNPS investigation and that a representative from MNPS needs to be present at the next meeting.

Shannon Hall seconded and a vote was taken on the motion to defer and the Committee approved without objection.

With nothing further presented the meeting was adjourned at 10:13 a.m.

ATTEST:

**Shannon B. Hall, Director**
**Human Resources**

APPROVED:

**Robert Weaver, Chair**
**In Line of Duty Committee**