

**General Retirement System City of Detroit Newsletter**  
**STRIVING TO MAKE RETIREMENT EASY!**

**BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT**

Newly elected trustee Jermaine Brown began his term on July 1, 2019. Brown shares with us insights on current efforts and how he aims to contribute to the Retirement System of the City of Detroit board throughout his tenure.



**1. What experience in life has shaped your motivation to serve the General Retirement Systems board?**

Experiences in life that shaped and motivated me to want to serve the board are my personal successes in learning to manage my own finances effectively. After years of being disappointed with the low rates of returns, I was inspired to take charge of my own finances and thereby gain an optimal return on my investments. I was able to learn and navigate through the financial market and I am hopeful that my insight on finances will prove beneficial to the General Retirement System.

**2. You believe in informing City employees and retirees on issues affecting our pension plan. How do you plan to implement this?** **JERMAINE BROWN**

I believe that it is essential that City employees and retirees are well informed on matters regarding our pension plan. I will make myself accessible to City employees and retirees. I will provide clarity on processes and procedures. I also would like to assist employees not fully understanding the new hybrid pension. I have spoken to numerous employees and many of them do not comprehend the calculation. Therefore, I feel that it's imperative to make sure that the employees are well knowledgeable about matters that will impact their lives.

**3. You stated that you will only accept reasonable steps and strategies to protect our investment. What is one step you would like to take to ensure City employees are ready for retirement?**

One step that I would like to take to ensure that City employees are ready for retirement is to make well informed decisions regarding investments that will produce favorable results, to fund the System's future obligations. I am confident that I am able to do this successfully, having experienced fluctuations in the market. I know that past performances do not guarantee future results.

**4. What is a career highlight that you have had while serving the city of Detroit?**

A career highlight that I have had while serving the city of Detroit occurred when I worked in the pension's employee benefits section. I was temporarily assigned to the section due to employee turnover. I was assigned the task of eliminating the backlog in death benefits. Through this experience I gained not only the importance of accuracy when managing someone's benefits, but also the compassion that is required when someone has lost a love one. As a result, I was able to complete the backlog of death benefits and was transferred permanently into the Benefits section.

**5. What do you want your legacy to be on the board?**

I would like my legacy to be that I made a difference. I plan on introducing new ways of doing things that will be beneficial for the employees and retirees. One idea specifically that I would like to push is the importance of employees being educated about personal finances. For years, we have been reliant on the City to totally provide for us when we retire. I believe that given appropriate information, employees can make better decisions on how to manage their money. They can learn the benefits of investing your money early for retirement. Ultimately, to make sure that employees and retirees have the knowledge, resources and ability to make good decisions regarding financial stability.

**IMPORTANT DATES**

General Retirement System board meetings start at 10 a.m. Investment committee meetings are held at Noon. All are held in the Retirement Systems conference room.

Feb. 3: Investment Committee Meeting  
Feb. 5: Board Meeting  
Feb. 19: Board Meeting

Mar. 4: Board Meeting  
Mar. 18: Board Meeting  
Apr. 1: Board Meeting

Apr. 13: Investment Committee Meeting  
Apr. 15: Board Meeting

**U.S. CENSUS**

Please participate in the upcoming U.S. Census. Whether an Active or Retired Employee, and no matter where you live, please complete your census form. An accurate count ensures proper funding and representation locally and in Washington D.C.!

**RETIREES**



**GO GREEN!**

Experience the benefits of going PAPERLESS! Our new web-based ERP Intelliplan system is seeking to reduce paper documents and provide members more efficient service. Complete actions online, 24/7:

- Update address, telephone, or email address
- Access direct deposit information
- Complete tax information

Need assistance signing up? Call our office at (313) 224-3362 and ask for Krystal Fulwiley.

**JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2020 PENSION CHECKS**

It has been discovered that our third-party payroll company, Paylocity, applied the 2020 tax withholding tables incorrectly to the January 1, 2020 pension checks. This may have resulted in an under withholding of federal taxes from your January 1 pension check. This error has been corrected for the February 1, 2020 pension checks and the correct federal taxes should be taken out of your pension check. We are NOT going to recoup the under withholding that occurred on your January 1st check on any future checks. If you would like to know the options available, please call our office at (313) 224-3362. We are committed to providing the best service to our members and we apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

**1099s**

The 1099s have been mailed. They can also be downloaded from the Paylocity website. Please follow the instructions from [www.rscd.org](http://www.rscd.org) to login to Paylocity if you have not logged on previously.

**ACTIVE EMPLOYEES**

**PRESENTATION FOR DEPT. DIVISIONS**

Department divisions – take advantage of this great opportunity! You can now request a presentation from GRSD to discuss basic benefits available, eligibility requirements, and get answers to questions. If interested, please contact Gail A. Oxendine, GRSD Assistant Executive Director, at [goxendine@rscd.org](mailto:goxendine@rscd.org).