

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT COMMISSION  
MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD MEETING

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NOVEMBER 4, 2022 MEETING  
HELD VIA ZOOM  
CONVENED AT 9:03 a.m.

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Present:

Nicolai Lieders, M.D., Chairperson  
Frank Gerratana, M.D.  
Michael Gerstenfeld, M.D.

Others Present:

Colin Newman, Assistant Director Retirement Division  
Robert Helfand, Investigation & Recovery Unit, Retirement  
Division  
William Cassada, Investigation & Recovery Unit, Retirement  
Division  
Helena Bartolomeo, Disability Retirement Unit, Retirement  
Services Division  
Melinda Powell, General Counsel to the Commission Rose Kallor,  
LLP

TRANSCRIPTIONIST: Karin A. Empson

1 (Proceedings commenced at 9:03 a.m. Recording and  
2 transcript started at 11:58 a.m. Executive session was  
3 from 9:04 a.m. until 11:58 a.m. There was a break in  
4 the meeting from 10:55 a.m. until 10:59 a.m.)  
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8 ELECTRONIC VOICE: This meeting is being  
9 recorded.

10 DR. LIEDERS: All right, before we go on to  
11 vote, let me say that the Board will be making  
12 determinations and voting on those determinations, but  
13 I would like to remind members that only the final vote  
14 will be given today and not the reasons for the vote.  
15 In some cases, there may not have been enough medical  
16 information to make a determination, or perhaps a non-  
17 service-connected disability is more likely than a  
18 service-connected disability.

19 You may seek reconsideration of an initial  
20 denial. You will receive the Board's written  
21 determination within two to four weeks, which will then  
22 provide you with that additional information.

23 So we'll proceed to the vote. So I make a  
24 motion to deny Timothy Bell's application for non-  
25 service-connected disability retirement.

1 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

2 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, second.

3 MS. CIESLAK: Go ahead, Dr. Lieders. We have  
4 a second.

5 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I was going to say, is  
6 there any discussion. I thought you were going to say  
7 that. Is there any discussion? All in favor, say aye.  
8 All opposed, say nay. Motion passes.

9 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana-

10 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Next one - I'm sorry?

11 MS. CIESLAK: We have to-

12 DR. GERRATANA: No, I was casting my vote.

13 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: So I make a motion to  
14 deny Gladys Crespo's application for service-connected  
15 disability retirement.

16 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

17 MS. CIESLAK: We have a second.

18 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Yes.

19 MS. CIESLAK: Yes by Dr. Gerratana.

20 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Yes. I see. Okay. Is  
21 there any discussion? All in favor, say aye.

22 DR. GERRETANA: Gerratana, aye.

23 DR. GERSTENDFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

24 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye. All opposed, say  
25 nay. Motion passes.

1 I'll make a motion to deny John Cristofaro's  
2 application for service-connected disability  
3 retirement, however the Board will consider a non-  
4 service-connected disability retirement.

5 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

6 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Is there any  
7 discussion? All in favor, say aye.

8 DR. GERRETANA: Gerratana, aye.

9 DR. GERSTENDFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

10 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Lieders, aye. All  
11 opposed, say nay. Motion passes.

12 I'll make a motion to approve James  
13 Gaglione's application for non-service-connected  
14 disability retirement.

15 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

16 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Is there any  
17 discussion? All in favor, say aye.

18 DR. GERRETANA: Gerratana, aye.

19 DR. GERSTENDFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

20 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Lieders, aye. The  
21 motion passes.

22 I'll make a motion to deny Joanne Guay's  
23 application for service-connected disability  
24 retirement, however the Board will consider a non-  
25 service-connected disability retirement. Is there a

1 second?

2 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

3 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Is there any  
4 discussion? All in favor, say aye.

5 DR. GERRETANA: Gerratana, aye.

6 DR. GERSTENDFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

7 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Lieders, aye. The  
8 motion passes.

9 I'll make a motion to deny Wanda Guzman-  
10 Sinko's application for service-connected disability  
11 retirement.

12 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

13 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Is there any  
14 discussion? All in favor, say aye.

15 DR. GERRETANA: Gerratana, aye.

16 DR. GERSTENDFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

17 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Lieders, aye. The  
18 motion passes.

19 I'll make a motion to approve Ricardo  
20 Kingland's application for service-connected disability  
21 retirement.

22 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

23 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Any discussion? All in  
24 favor, say aye.

25 DR. GERRETANA: Gerratana, aye.

1 DR. GERSTENDFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

2 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Lieders, aye. The  
3 motion passes.

4 I will make a motion to approve John Kozin's  
5 application for non-service-connected disability  
6 retirement.

7 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

8 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Any discussion? All in  
9 favor, say aye.

10 DR. GERRETANA: Gerratana, aye.

11 DR. GERSTENDFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

12 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Lieders, aye. All  
13 opposed, say nay. The motion passes.

14 I'll make a motion to deny Beverly Lanoie's  
15 application for service-connected disability  
16 retirement.

17 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

18 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Any discussion? All in  
19 favor, say aye.

20 DR. GERRETANA: Gerratana, aye.

21 DR. GERSTENDFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

22 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Lieders, aye. All  
23 opposed, say nay. The motion passes. (Inaudible)

24 I make a motion to deny Cedric Lindsey's  
25 application for service-connected disability

1 retirement.

2 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

3 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Any discussion? All in  
4 favor, say aye.

5 DR. GERRETANA: Gerratana, aye.

6 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

7 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Lieders, aye. No  
8 opposed. The motion passes.

9 I'll make a motion to approve Joseph  
10 Marchese's application for service-connected disability  
11 retirement.

12 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

13 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Is there any  
14 discussion? All in favor, say aye.

15 DR. GERRETANA: Gerratana, aye.

16 DR. GERSTENFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

17 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Lieders, aye. No  
18 opposed. The motion passes.

19 I'll make a motion to approve Charles  
20 Mercado's application for service-connected disability  
21 retirement.

22 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

23 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Is there any  
24 discussion? All in favor, say aye.

25 DR. GERRETANA: Gerratana, aye.

1 DR. GERSTENDFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

2 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Lieders, aye. The  
3 motion passes.

4 I'll make a motion to deny Yvonne Muniz's  
5 application for non-service-connected disability  
6 retirement.

7 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

8 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Is there any  
9 discussion? All in favor, say aye.

10 DR. GERRETANA: Gerratana, aye.

11 DR. GERSTENDFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

12 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Lieders, aye. All  
13 opposed, say nay. The motion passes.

14 I'll make a motion to deny Sherri Neptune's  
15 application for service-connected disability  
16 retirement, however the Board will consider a non-  
17 service-connected disability retirement.

18 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

19 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Any discussion? All in  
20 favor, say aye.

21 DR. GERRETANA: Gerratana, aye.

22 DR. GERSTENDFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

23 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Lieders, aye. No  
24 opposed. The motion passes.

25 I'll make a motion to deny Annie Perry's



1 application for service-connected disability  
2 retirement, however the Board will consider a non-  
3 service-connected disability retirement.

4 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

5 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Is there any  
6 discussion? All in favor, say aye.

7 DR. GERRETANA: Gerratana, aye.

8 DR. GERSTENDFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

9 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Lieders, aye. All  
10 opposed, say nay. The motion passes.

11 I will make a motion to deny Carmen Ramos'  
12 application for service-connected disability  
13 retirement.

14 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

15 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Any discussion? All in  
16 favor, say aye.

17 DR. GERRETANA: Gerratana, aye.

18 DR. GERSTENDFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

19 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Lieders, aye. All  
20 opposed, say nay. The motion passes.

21 I'll make a motion to deny Richard Rusiecki's  
22 application for service-connected disability  
23 retirement.

24 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

25 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Is there any

1 discussion? All in favor, say aye.

2 DR. GERRETANA: Gerratana, aye.

3 DR. GERSTENDFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

4 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Lieders, aye. All  
5 opposed, say nay. The motion passes.

6 I'll make a motion to deny Earl Schoolfield's  
7 application for service-connected disability  
8 retirement.

9 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

10 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Is there any  
11 discussion? All in favor, say aye.

12 DR. GERRETANA: Gerratana, aye.

13 DR. GERSTENDFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

14 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Lieders, aye. All  
15 opposed, say nay. The motion passes.

16 I'll make a motion to deny Albert Scott's  
17 application for service-connected disability  
18 retirement, however the Board will consider a non-  
19 service-connected disability retirement.

20 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

21 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Is there any  
22 discussion? All in favor, say aye.

23 DR. GERRETANA: Gerratana, aye.

24 DR. GERSTENDFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

25 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Lieders, aye. All

1       opposed, say nay. The motion passes.

2               I'll make a motion to deny Carla Smith's  
3 application to service-connected disability retirement.

4               DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

5               CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Is there any  
6 discussion? All in favor, say aye.

7               DR. GERRETANA: Gerratana, aye.

8               DR. GERSTENDFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

9               CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Lieders, aye. All  
10 opposed, say nay. The motion passes.

11              I'll make a motion to deny Moe Tibac's  
12 application for non-service-connected disability  
13 retirement.

14              DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

15              CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Is there any  
16 discussion? All in favor, say aye.

17              DR. GERRETANA: Gerratana, aye.

18              DR. GERSTENDFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

19              CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Lieders, aye. All  
20 opposed, say nay. The motion passes.

21              I'll make a motion to approve Kathleen  
22 Tirinzoni's application for non-service-connected  
23 disability retirement.

24              DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

25              CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Is there any

1 discussion? All in favor, say aye.

2 DR. GERRETANA: Gerratana, aye.

3 DR. GERSTENDFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

4 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Lieders, aye. All  
5 opposed, say nay. The motion passes.

6 Finally, I make a motion to change Alec  
7 Mandia's application from service-connected disability  
8 retirement to non-service-connected disability  
9 retirement.

10 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

11 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Is there any  
12 discussion? There is none. All in favor, say aye.

13 DR. GERRETANA: Gerratana, aye.

14 DR. GERSTENDFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

15 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Lieders, aye. All  
16 opposed, say nay. The motion passes.

17 So this was the last case that we had to  
18 discuss today. Is there anything else, any further  
19 issues?

20 So I will make a motion to adjourn today's  
21 meeting.

22 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

23 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Is there any  
24 discussion? There being none, all in favor, say aye.

25 DR. GERRETANA: Gerratana, aye, with thanks

1 for the Chairman.

2 DR. GERSTENDFELD: Gerstenfeld, aye.

3 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Lieders says aye. All  
4 opposed, say nay. The motion passes. Meeting  
5 adjourned.

6 MS. CIESLAK: Thank you.

7 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Thank you, everybody.  
8 Have a very nice weekend.

9 (Adjourned at 12:08 p.m.)

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I, Karin A. Empson, do hereby  
certify that the preceding pages are an accurate  
transcription of the Connecticut State Employees  
Retirement Commission, Medical Examining Board meeting  
held electronically via Zoom, conducted at 9:03 a.m. on  
November 4, 2022, but only includes transcript of  
recording from 11:58 a.m. until 12:08 p.m.

Karin A. Empson

Karin A. Empson

12/07/2022

Date