Baltimore City Employees' Retirement System Response Case # 24-0001-I

CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON M. SCOTT, Mayor



EMPLOYEE'S RETIREMENT SYSTEM. ELECTED OFFICIALS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM and RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN **DAVID A. RANDALL. Executive Director** 7 E. Redwood Street 11th.12th and 13th Floors Baltimore, Maryland 21202

September 25, 2023

The Honorable Isabel Mercedes Cumming, Inspector General Office of the Inspector General City Hall, Suite 635 100 N. Holliday Street Baltimore, MD 21202

RE: OIG Case # 24-0001-1

Dear Ms. Cumming:

Per your request of September 12, 2023, this is the BCERS/RSP official response regarding the OIG Report of Investigation regarding the allegation that, as of July 2023, the Baltimore City Public Schools had not initiated retirement contributions for 572 Retirement Savings Plan (RSP)-eligible employees, resulting in over \$5,000,000 of missed employee deductions and employer contributions for City Schools employees.

Thank you and your team for your input on this issue. Since the onset of the investigation, we have made significant progress. Upon our audit, we found that the actual number of affected employees totaled 474 members. The reduced number stems from the removal of terminated employees from the original population. On September 7, 2023, we received payment from the Baltimore City Public Schools in the amount of \$5,179,434.00 which brings whole the accounts of the 474 affected members as of pay period ending September 8, 2023. In addition, we have confirmed with the Baltimore City Public Schools that the automatic contribution utility is now fully functional. Impacted members with a pay date of September 15, 2023, saw their first contribution withheld from their pay checks.

We will continue to work in collaboration with Baltimore City Public Schools to ensure that this type of concern is avoided going forward. As evidence of this partnership and per your recommendation, we will continue to work with Baltimore City Public Schools to gain view only access to Oracle Fusion. It is our hope and expectation that a data-sharing agreement be executed and implemented no later than the end of the first quarter, March 31, 2024, to prevent mishaps due to our office's inability to verify accurate and timely receipt of data.



If you have any questions or need additional information, I can be reached at 443-984-3180.

Sincerely, lall

David A. Randall, Executive Director

CC: Honorable Brandon M. Scott, Mayor Marvin James, Interim Chief of Staff Honorable Ebony M. Thompson, Acting City Solicitor Faith Leach, Chief Administrative Officer Simone C. Johnson, Deputy City Administrator Michael Moiseyev, Director of Finance Jushua Civin, City Schools Chief Legal Officer