



**Office of the Washington State Auditor
Pat McCarthy**

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 18, 2018

The Honorable Mayor and Members of the Board of Administration
Tacoma Employees' Retirement System
Tacoma, Washington

REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Tacoma Employees' Retirement System, a fiduciary fund of the City of Tacoma, Pierce County, Washington, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2017, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Retirement System's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or

error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Retirement System's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Retirement System's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Tacoma Employees' Retirement System, Pierce County, Washington, as of December 31, 2017, and the changes in financial position thereof for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Matter of Emphasis

As discussed in Note 1, the financial statements present only the Tacoma Employees' Retirement System and do not purport to, and do not present fairly the financial position of the City of Tacoma, Washington as of December 31, 2017, the changes in its financial position, or where applicable, its cash flows for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

As explained in Note 2, the financial statements include pension trust fund investments valued at \$1.72 billion, which comprise 95.4 percent of total assets and 95.4 percent of net position restricted for pensions. The fair values of these investments have been estimated by management in the absence of readily determinable fair values. Managements' estimates are based on information provided by the fund managers or, in the case of investments in partnerships, the general partners. Our opinion was not modified with respect to this matter.

Other Matters

Report on summarized Comparative Information

The financial statements include partial prior year comparative information. Such information does not include all of the information required for a presentation in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Accordingly, such information should be read in conjunction with the Retirement System's financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2016,

from which such partial information was derived. We have previously audited the Retirement System's 2016 financial statements and we expressed an unmodified opinion in our report dated May 25, 2017. In our opinion, the summarized comparative information presented herein as of and for the year ended December 31, 2016, is consistent in all material respects, with the audited financial statements from which it has been derived.

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis and required supplementary information listed in the table of contents be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Supplementary and Other Information

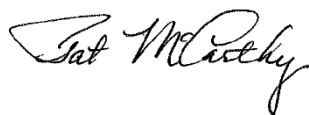
Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Retirement System's basic financial statements. The accompanying information listed as other supplementary information are presented for the purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. This information has been subjected to auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the information is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

The information identified in the table of contents as the Introductory, Investment, Actuarial, and Statistical sections, and management's responsibility for financial reporting are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements of the Retirement System. Such information has not been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, accordingly, we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on it.

OTHER REPORTING REQUIRED BY GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we will also issue our report dated June 18, 2018, on our consideration of the Retirement System's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Retirement System's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pat McCarthy".

Pat McCarthy

State Auditor

Olympia, WA