# SARASOTA POLICE OFFICERS' PENSION FUND

# STATEMENT OF INVESTMENT POLICY GOALS AND GUIDELINES

Adopted: December 8, 2023

#### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Sarasota Police Officers' Pension Fund (the Fund) is to provide long-term retirement benefits to the Plan's participants.

The purpose of this document is to communicate, in writing, the investment objectives and guidelines established by the Board of Trustees of the Sarasota Police Officers' Pension Fund. This Statement of Investment Policy applies to all funds under control of the Board. It is intended to provide the investment managers a clear and accurate understanding of all investment objectives, investment guidelines and the criteria by which investment performance will be evaluated. The guidelines and objectives provided herein are intended only to complement those contained in any applicable ordinances or statutes. If at any time this document is found to be in conflict with any applicable ordinances or statutes, the statutes and ordinances shall prevail.

The investment policies set forth in this document were established after a thorough review of the unique needs and circumstances of the Fund, and a careful evaluation of the risk and potential returns expected from various mixes of stocks, convertibles, publicly traded master limited partnerships, bonds, real estate and cash equivalent securities.

#### **GENERAL OBJECTIVES**

The investment objective of the Sarasota Police Officers' Pension Fund is to preserve the purchasing power of the Plan's assets and earn an above average real rate of return (after inflation) over the long term while minimizing, to a reasonable extent, the short term volatility of results.

To achieve these objectives, the Board of Trustees, as named fiduciaries, seek to create a well diversified and balanced portfolio of equity, convertible, fixed income, real estate and cash equivalent securities. The Board has determined that one or more outside investment managers shall be retained to assure that all investments are managed in both a prudent and professional manner and in compliance with the stated investment guidelines. When deemed appropriate, the Board of Trustees may also invest Plan assets in mutual funds. The Board of Trustees recognizes and accepts that commingled and mutual fund investments will be dictated by the investment policies and guidelines of those funds and that no additional constraints may be imposed on them. The decision to invest assets of the Sarasota Police Officers' Pension Fund in any commingled or mutual fund will only be made by the Trustees after a thorough review of the policies and/or prospectuses of those funds and after it has been determined that those policies are appropriate and consistent with the investment philosophy of the Sarasota Police Officers' Pension Fund.

## **INVESTMENT MANAGER RESPONSIBILITIES**

Within the guidelines and restrictions set forth herein, it is the intention of the Board of Trustees to give each investment manager full investment discretion with respect to assets under its management.

The Board of Trustees and its investment managers shall discharge their responsibilities in the same manner as if the Fund were governed by the fiduciary responsibility provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), as amended (29 USC 1104). Although the Trustees acknowledge that ERISA does not apply to the Fund as a governmental fund, it hereby imposes the fiduciary provisions of ERISA upon each investment manager whose performance shall conform to the statutory provisions, rules, regulations, interpretations and case law of ERISA. Each investment manager shall acknowledge, in writing, that it is a named fiduciary of the Fund.

Each investment manager is expected to provide any reasonable information requested by the Board of Trustees. At a minimum, each manager shall provide a quarterly report detailing their investment activity, the portfolio's current value and any changes in investment philosophy or strategy. This report shall also identify and describe any significant changes in the personnel or ownership of the investment management firm. Each investment manager is expected to meet with the Board of Trustees or their designated representatives periodically to review investment performance and philosophy.

Unless otherwise provided by the Fund's Custodian, each investment manager will monitor portfolio activity to minimize uninvested cash balances.

Each investment manager shall be responsible only for those assets under their management.

It will be the responsibility of each investment manager to review the monthly valuations provided by the Fund's custodian and to note, in writing, any significant discrepancies from the valuations provided in their own reports.

## **INVESTMENT OBJECTIVES**

Given the above stated purpose of the Sarasota Police Officers' Pension Fund, the Board of Trustees recognizes the necessity of a long-term horizon when formulating investment policies and strategies. However, shorter term investment goals have been established and are intended to provide quantifiable benchmarks to measure and evaluate portfolio return and risk.

Most investment styles require a full market cycle to allow an investment manager to demonstrate his abilities. A full market cycle is generally defined as a three to five year time period. As a result, performance results will be measured over a three to five year period. Performance over shorter time periods will be monitored as a means of identifying the trend of results.

The specific investment objectives of the Sarasota Police Officers' Pension Fund are as follows:

To earn an average annual rate of return over the long term which exceeds the actuarial assumption rate.

To earn a total rate of return over the longer term which exceeds the return of a Target Index. The Target Index for the Sarasota Police Officers' Pension Fund is defined as a 30% investment in the Russell 1000 Stock Index, a 5% investment in the Russell 2500 Stock Index, a 10% investment in the BofA Merrill Lynch All U.S.Convertible Index, a 5% investment in FTSE Global Core Infrastructure 50/50 Index, a 15% investment in the MSCI -All Country World (ex U.S.) Stock Index, a 10% investment in the NCREIF ODCE Property Index and a 25% investment in the Bloomberg Capital U.S. Aggregate Bond Index.

To earn a total rate of return over the longer term which ranks above average when compared to a representative universe of other, similarly managed portfolios.

The above investment objectives have been established for the entire Sarasota Police Officers' Pension Fund. The specific investment objectives for each investment manager will be outlined in addenda to this overall Statement of Investment Policy.

#### **INVESTMENT GUIDELINES**

The Board of Trustees of the Sarasota Police Officers' Pension Fund has established a target asset allocation for the Fund based on the market value of the Fund's total assets:

	Target	Target Index
Domestic equity – Large Cap	30%	Russell 1000
Domestic equity – Small/Mid-cap	5%	Russell 2500
Convertible Securities	10%	BofA Merrill Lynch All U.S. Conv. Index
Infrastructure	5%	FTSE Global Infr.
Foreign equity securities	15%	MSCI ACWI (ex U.S.)
Fixed income securities	25%	Bloomberg Aggregate
Real Estate	10%	NCREIF ODCE Property

The above percentages refer to the market value of Fund assets. Although fund contributions or withdrawals may be used to maintain the appropriate balance between investment manager portfolios, it may also be necessary from time to time to transfer securities or cash from one investment manager to another.

Specific investment manager assignments and additional guidelines for each investment manager will be outlined in addenda to this overall Statement of Investment Policy. The following guidelines apply to the total Fund.

## **EQUITY SECURITIES:**

- 1) All equity investments shall be limited to fully and easily negotiable equity securities.
- 2) Investments in equity securities (including convertibles and infrastructure) shall not exceed 75 % of the market value of total Fund assets.
- 3) Unless otherwise stated in an addendum to this Statement of Investment Policy, no more than 5% (at market) of an investment manager's equity portfolio may be invested in the shares of a single corporate issuer.
- 4) Unless otherwise stated in an addendum to this Statement of Investment Policy, investments in the shares of companies that have been publicly traded for less than one year are limited to no more than 15% of an investment manager's total equity portfolio.
- 5) Investments in securities (stocks, bonds and cash equivalents) issued by foreign governments or corporations domiciled outside of the United States shall not exceed 25% (at market) of the Fund's total market value. The definition of a foreign stock for purposes of this policy is found in Florida Statutes, Section 185.06(1)(b)4.

## **CONVERTIBLE SECURITIES:**

1) All convertible securities shall be classified as equities and shall be limited to 25% of the Fund's total portfolio value.

- 2) All convertible investments shall be limited to fully and easily negotiable convertible securities.
- 3) No more than 10% at market value of an investment manager's convertible portfolio may be invested in the shares of a single corporate issuer.
- 4) Investments in foreign convertibles are limited to 25% (at market) of the investment manager's portfolio. The definition of a foreign security for purposes of this policy is any corporation not organized under the laws of the United States, any state or organized territory of the United States, or the District of Columbia.
- 5) This hybrid asset class will be deemed as equity and shall not be held to the rating standards of fixed income investments.
- 6) 144A securities are limited to 35% (at market) of the investment manager's portfolio.

#### INFRASTRUCTURE:

- All infrastructure investments shall be limited to fully and easily negotiable infrastructure securities.
- 2) No more than 10% at market value of an investment manager's infrastructure portfolio may be invested in a single issuer unless the issuer makes up more than 10% of the FTSE Global Core Infrastructure 50/50 Index. In such case, the investment manager may hold up to the Index weighting in that issuer.
- 3) The Board of Trustees recognizes and accepts that commingled and mutual fund investments will be dictated by the investment policies and guidelines of those funds and that no additional constraints may be imposed on them. The decision to invest assets of the Sarasota Police Officers' Pension Fund in any commingled or mutual fund will only be made by the Trustees after a thorough review of the policies and/or prospectuses of those funds and after it has been determined that those policies are appropriate and consistent with the investment philosophy of the Sarasota Police Officers' Pension Fund.
- 4) No more than 10% of the total fund assets (at market value) may be invested in master limited partnerships.

## **FIXED INCOME SECURITIES:**

- 1) Investments in bonds or other evidences of indebtedness must be issued or guaranteed by a corporation organized under the laws of the United States or the District of Columbia, including asset-backed and mortgage-backed securities, provided the issuer has an investment grade rating by Standard & Poor's or Moody's. No more than 30% of the fixed income portfolio shall be invested in securities rated below A- by S&P or A3 by Moody's. Fixed income securities which are downgraded below the minimum rating by BOTH entities shall be sold at the earliest beneficial opportunity.
- 2) No more than 10% (at market) of an investment manager's total fixed income portfolio shall be invested in the securities of any single corporate issuer.
- 3) Investments in Collateralized Mortgage Obligations (CMOs) shall be limited to 25% of the market value of the investment manager's total portfolio and shall be restricted to:

- a) Those issues backed by the full faith of the U. S. Government, an Agency thereof, or are rated AAA by a major rating service.
- b) PAC (planned amortization class), NAC (non-accelerated securities) 0r VADM (very accurately defined maturity) securities.
- 4) Investments in securities (stocks, bonds and cash equivalents) issued by foreign governments or corporations domiciled outside of the United States shall not exceed 25% (at market) of the Fund's total market value. The definition of a foreign stock for purposes of this policy is found in Florida Statutes, Section 185.06(1)(b)4.
- 5) There is no limit imposed on investments in fixed income securities issued directly by the United States Government or any agency or instrumentality thereof.
- 6) Investments in Commercial Mortgage Backed Securities (CMBS) are permitted if the securities are rated AAA by a major rating service.

#### **REAL ESTATE:**

- 1) Investments in real estate shall not exceed 15% at market of the value of total Fund assets.
- 2) All real estate investments shall be made through participation in diversified commingled funds of real properties or real estate securities. These funds shall be broadly diversified as to property type and location.
- 3) Experienced and professional real property investment managers shall manage all real estate investments.

## **CASH EQUIVALENT SECURITIES:**

- 1) The investment managers may invest only in the following short term investment vehicles:
  - a) The money market or STIF provided by the Fund's custodian.
  - b) Direct obligations of the United States Government with a maturity of one year or less.
  - c) Commercial Paper with a maturity of 270 days or less that is rated A-1 or higher by Standard & Poor's or P-1 or higher by Moody's.

# **PROHIBITED INVESTMENTS**

Direct investments in interest only or principal only CMOs, interest rate swaps, precious metals, venture capital, futures contracts, options contracts and direct investments in repurchase agreements are prohibited. Trading on margin and short selling are also prohibited.

#### SUDAN/IRAN DIVESTITURE

In accordance with the Protecting Florida's Investment Act (Fla. Stat. 215.473), each investment manager is prohibited from <u>directly</u> investing in any company identified each quarter by the State Board of Administration on its website as a scrutinized company. Each manager shall review its investments each quarter to determine whether it is required to sell, redeem, divest or withdraw any publicly traded security of a company identified by the SBA as a scrutinized company. While this restriction does not apply to indirect investments in scrutinized companies through actively

managed commingled or mutual funds, the Board shall submit letters to the managers of such funds requesting that they consider removing such companies from the fund or that they create a similar actively managed fund devoid of such companies. If such a fund is created, assets will be transferred to that fund. However, there is no requirement to sell the existing fund if the managers of such funds are not willing or able to honor the requests of the Board.

# **SECTION 112.661, FLORIDA STATUTES**

The Board of Trustees has adopted the following additional provisions to comply with Section 112.661, Florida Statutes:

- 1. SCOPE: The investment policy applies to those funds under control of the Board.
- 2. INVESTMENT OBJECTIVES: The investment policy describes the investment objectives of the Board.
- PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT: The investment policy specifies performance measures as are appropriate for the nature and size of the assets within the Board's custody.
- 4. INVESTMENT AND FIDUCIARY STANDARDS: In performing its investment duties, the Board and its investment managers shall comply with the fiduciary standards set forth in ERISA (Employee Retirement Income Security Act).
- 5. AUTHORIZED INVESTMENTS: (a) The Board of Trustees recognizes those assets listed in its attached Statement of Investment Policy. Investments not so listed are prohibited. (b) If on October 1, 2000, investments exceed the applicable limit or do not satisfy the applicable investment standard, such excess or non-compliant investment may be continued until it is economically feasible to dispose of such investment, but no additional investment may be made unless authorized by law or ordinance.
- 6. MATURITY AND LIQUIDITY REQUIREMENTS: The investment portfolio shall be structured in such a manner as to provide sufficient liquidity to pay obligations as they come due. To the extent possible, an attempt will be made to match investment maturities with known cash needs and anticipated cash-flow requirements.
- 7. PORTFOLIO COMPOSITION: The investment policy establishes guidelines for investments and limits on security issues, issuers and maturities. These guidelines are commensurate with the nature and size of the funds within the custody of the Board.
- 8. RISK AND DIVERSIFICATION: The Board of Trustees has developed a diversified investment program as to control the risk of loss resulting from over concentration in a specific maturity, issuer, instrument, dealer or bank through which financial instruments are bought and sold.
- 9. EXPECTED ANNUAL RATE OF RETURN: With consideration to rates of return from different asset classes, the Board of Trustees has crafted its investment program in order to deliver an expected rate of return similar to that of the actuarial assumed rate. The Board shall determine for each actuarial valuation, the total expected annual rate of return for the current year, for each of the next several years and for the long term thereafter. The total expected annual rate of return is anticipated to be similar to the actuarial assumed rate of return. This determination is to be filed with the Department of Management Services and with the plan sponsor and consulting actuary.
- 10. THIRD-PARTY CUSTODIAL AGREEMENTS: All assets shall be held by a third party custodian selected by the Board. Securities transactions between a broker-dealer and the custodian involving purchase or sale of securities by transfer of money or securities are to be made on a "delivery vs. payment" basis to insure that the custodian will have the security or money in hand at conclusion of the transaction.
- 11. MASTER REPURCHASE AGREEMENT: Repurchase Agreements are prohibited investments.
- 12. BID REQUIREMENT: To the extent possible, it is the intention of the Board of Trustees to determine the approximate maturity date based on cash-flow needs and market conditions, analyze and select one or more optimal types of investment and competitively

- bid the security in question when feasible and appropriate. Except as otherwise required by law, the most economically advantageous bid is to be selected.
- 13. INTERNAL CONTROLS: The Board recognizes the internal controls and operational procedures outlined in the Board's operating rules and procedures, in the plan document, and in the custodial agreement. These controls are to be reviewed by the Board's independent certified public accountant as part of the financial audit periodically required. The internal controls are designed to prevent losses of funds, which might arise from fraud, error, and misrepresentation, by third parties or imprudent actions by the Board or employees of the plan sponsor.
- 14. CONTINUING EDUCATION: The Board of Trustees relies on its consultants and professionals to provide continuing education on pension and investment issues. The Board of Trustees also recognizes state and regional conferences as a source of continuing education. The Trustees are encouraged to attend conferences, schools, and other functions periodically in order to fulfill this requirement.
- 15. REPORTING: The Custodian's valuation report is to be filed annually with the plan sponsor. This report is available to the public.
- 16. FILING OF INVESTMENT POLICY: The investment policy is to be promptly filed with the Department of Management Services, plan sponsor and consulting actuary. The effective date of the investment policy and any amendment thereto shall be the 31st calendar day following the filing date with the plan sponsor.
- 17. VALUATION OF ILLIQUID INVESTMENTS: The Board defines an illiquid investment as one for which a generally recognized market is not available or for which there is no consistent or generally accepted pricing mechanism. Should an investment become illiquid or in the event that the fund acquires an illiquid investment, the Board shall develop the methodology for valuation as set forth in the criteria in Section 215.47(6), Florida Statutes (the SBA/FRS methodology for valuation).

## **COMPLIANCE WITH CHAPTER 2023-28, LAWS OF FLORIDA:**

The Board and its investment managers shall comply with the applicable requirements of Chapter 2023-28, Laws of Florida, including Section 112.662, along with regulations adopted by the Department of Management Services.

- <u>Definition of pecuniary factor</u>: The term "pecuniary factor" is defined as a factor that an investment fiduciary "prudently determines is expected to have a material effect on the risk or returns of an investment based on appropriate investment horizons consistent with the investment objectives and funding policy of the retirement system. The term does not include the consideration of the furtherance of any social, political, or ideological interests." [112.662(1)]
- Exclusive consideration of pecuniary factors: Only pecuniary factors may be considered and the interests of the participants and beneficiaries of the system may not be subordinated to other objectives, including sacrificing investment return or undertaking additional investment risk to promote any nonpecuniary factor. The weight given to any pecuniary factor must appropriately reflect a prudent assessment of its impact on risk or returns. [112.662(2)]
- 3. **Proxy voting:** Only pecuniary factors may be considered when voting proxies. [112.662(3)]
- 4. Filing requirements: The Board shall timely comply with the reporting requirement of Section 112.662 by filing a comprehensive report by December 15 of each odd-numbered year. [112.662(4)]. Investment managers and the Board's investment consultant shall assist in the preparation of required reports and shall annually confirm to the Board their compliance with Chapter 2023-28.

5. <u>Contracting and external communication requirements</u>: Manager contracts shall comply with Section 215.855 as follows:

Any written communication made by an investment manager to a company in which such manager invests public funds on behalf of the Board must include the following disclaimer in a conspicuous location if such communication discusses social, political, or ideological interests; subordinates the interests of the company's shareholders to the interest of another entity; or advocates for the interest of an entity other than the company's shareholders:

The views and opinions expressed in this communication are those of the sender and do not reflect the views and opinions of the people of the State of Florida.

- 6. The Investment Consultant will provide Investment Managers for consideration who invest only based on pecuniary factors as defined by Florida Statutes §112.662.
- 7. If a Request for Proposals document is issued for Investment Manager services, the solicitation document must include the following:

The Board of Trustees may not request documentation of or consider a vendor's social, political, or ideological interests when determining if the vendor is a responsible vendor. Additionally, the Board of Trustees may not give preference to a vendor based on vendor's social, political, or ideological interests.

<u>128-</u>23

## PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

The Board of Trustees intends to review investment performance and compliance with stated investment policies on a quarterly basis.

## **REVIEW OF POLICY**

It is the intention of the Board of Trustees to review this Statement of Investment Policy and its addenda periodically and to amend it to reflect any changes in philosophy or objectives. However, if at any time the investment managers believe that the specific objectives defined herein cannot be met or that these guidelines unnecessarily constrict performance, the Trustees shall be so notified in writing.

Adopted this 8th day of December, 2023.

CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

SARASOTA POLICE OFFICERS' PENSION FUND