



THE CECIL COUNTY PENSION PLAN FOR PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYEES

**ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2018**

**A FIDUCIARY FUND OF
CECIL COUNTY, MARYLAND**



Prepared by the Cecil County Department of Finance



**THE CECIL COUNTY PENSION PLAN
FOR PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYEES**

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OF A PENSION FUND OF CECIL COUNTY, MARYLAND
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2018**

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**CECIL COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY
PENSION PLAN
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
200 Chesapeake Blvd.
Elkton, MD 21921
(410) - 996-5200**



December 11, 2018

To the County Executive, County Council and
The Citizens of Cecil County, Maryland

Pursuant to Maryland state law that requires essentially all local governments' pension plans to prepare a complete set of financial statements presented in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) and audited in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards by a firm of licensed certified public accountants, we hereby issue the Annual Financial Report of The Cecil County Pension Plan for Public Safety Employees (the Plan) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2018. The Plan is a pension plan of Cecil County. This report is divided into two sections: an Introductory Section including the administrative organization and the letter of transmittal; and a Financial Section including the report of the independent public accountants, management's discussion and analysis, the basic financial statements of the Plan, and certain required supplementary information.

This report consists of management's representations concerning the finances of the Plan. Consequently, the Trustees of the Plan assume responsibility for the completeness and fairness of the presentation, including all disclosures. To provide a reasonable basis for making these representations, the Trustees of the Plan have established a comprehensive internal control framework that is designed to protect the Plan's assets from loss, theft, or misuse and to compile sufficient information for the preparation of the Plan's financial statements in conformity with GAAP. Because the cost of internal controls should not outweigh their benefits, the Plan's comprehensive framework of internal controls has been designed to provide reasonable rather than absolute assurance that the financial statements will be free from material misstatement. As management, we assert that, to the best of our knowledge and belief, this financial report is complete and reliable in all material respects.

The Plan's financial statements have been audited by SB & Company, LLC, a firm of licensed certified public accountants. The goal of the independent audit was to provide reasonable assurance that the financial statements of the Plan as of and for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2018 are free of material misstatement. The independent audit involved examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements; assessing the

accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management; and evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. The independent auditor concluded, based upon the audit, that there was a reasonable basis for rendering an unmodified opinion that Cecil County's financial statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2018 are fairly presented in conformity with GAAP. The independent public accountants report is presented as the first component of the Financial Section of this report.

GAAP requires that management provide a narrative introduction, overview, and analysis to accompany the basic financial statements in the form of Management's Discussion and Analysis (MD&A). This letter of transmittal is designed to complement the MD&A and should be read in conjunction with it. The Plan's MD&A can be found immediately following the report of independent public accountants.

Profile of the Plan

The Cecil County Pension Plan for Public Safety Employees was established effective July 1, 2002 under a plan document and trust agreement enacted by the Board of County Commissioners of Cecil County to provide retirement benefits to certain law enforcement and emergency services personnel. Responsibility for the administration and operation of the Plan is vested in a 9-member Board of Trustees appointed by the County Executive and subject to confirmation by the County Council.

The Plan serves members and beneficiaries totaling 455 as of June 30, 2018 (page 9). The Plan is a single-employer defined benefit plan that covers all full-time employees on the County's Public Safety Pay Plan hired after June 30, 2002, employees who have opted to convert from the Maryland State Retirement and Pension System (MSRPS) to the Plan, and the Cecil County Sheriff. Thus, the Plan covers a majority of the law enforcement officers, correctional officers and professionals of emergency services, of Cecil County, Maryland.

Major Initiatives

Current Year. During fiscal year 2018, a GASB 68 actuarial report was completed by Bolton Partners, as well as, a valuation report to determine the fiscal year 2019 contribution due from the County.

Long Term. The Board of Trustees will provide additional educational opportunities to Board members as an increased level of turnover has occurred in the Board. The Board of Trustees will continue to work to ensure that the Plan assets are invested with the long-term objective of earning amounts sufficient to cover expected benefit obligations, while assuming a prudent level of risk.

Additions and Deductions from Plan Net Position

Additions to the net position of \$7,122,468 were comprised of contributions from the County and plan participants of \$2,632,355, net investment earnings of \$1,109,349 and gain on market value of \$3,380,768 for fiscal year 2018. Deductions to the net position of \$2,320,436 include \$2,002,499 in direct pension payments to participants, \$262,997 return of contributions and interest to terminated participants and \$54,940 in administrative expenses, resulting in an increase in net position of \$4,802,032 for fiscal year 2018.

The Plan was created to provide retirement annuities, survivor benefits, and total and permanent disability benefits to qualified members and their beneficiaries. The cost of such programs includes recurring benefit payments as designated by the Plan, refunds of contributions to terminated employees, and the cost of administering the Plan. The total deductions from Plan net position related to the above programs amounted to \$2,320,436 in fiscal year 2018.

Additional information regarding additions and deductions is contained in management's discussion and analysis which begins on page 3.

Investments

Through its plan document, trust documents, policies, and procedures, the Plan has established standards to assure that fiduciaries shall discharge their duties solely in the interest of the Plan participants and beneficiaries and with the degree of diligence, care, and skill which prudent men and women would ordinarily exercise under similar circumstance in a like position. (The general concept is often known as the "prudent person rule.") These standards permit the diversification of investments by the Plan to enable the Plan to reduce overall risk and increase returns.

The Board of Trustees has established an investment policy that allows for the delegation of investment authority to professional investment advisors. The statement of investment policy outlines the responsibility for the investment of the fund and the degree of risk deemed appropriate for the fund. Investment advisors are to execute the investment policy in accordance with the Plan and Trust documents, as well as, Board policy and established guidelines, but can use full discretion within the policy and guidelines. For fiscal year 2018, the return on investments, net of fees, was 8.79%.

Funding

A pension plan is well funded when its assets are equal to or greater than the net pension liability. The Plan's funding objective is to meet long-term benefit promises through contributions that remain approximately level as a percent of member payroll. The greater the level of funding, the larger the ratio of assets accumulated to the actuarial accrued liability, and the greater the level of investment potential.

Professional Services

Professional consultants are appointed by the Board of Trustees to perform professional services that are essential to the effective and efficient operation of the Plan. An opinion from the certified public accountant is included in this report. The consultants appointed by the Board of Trustees are listed on page v.

Acknowledgements

The operation of the Plan was made possible by the efforts of the County Executive, County Council and other elected officials and department heads, the Trustees of the Plan, the Human Resources staff, members of the Department of Finance, and the cooperation of the members of the Plan. Preparation of the Annual Financial Report on a timely basis was made possible by the dedicated service of the Department of Finance staff.

In closing, the Trustees look forward to serving the members of The Cecil County Pension Plan for Public Safety Employees by providing benefits in their retirement.

Respectfully Submitted,



Lisa A. Saxton
Trustee

**THE CECIL COUNTY PENSION PLAN
FOR PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYEES**

Principal Officials & Consultants

June 30, 2018

Appointed Officials

Board of Trustees

Trustee and Chairman
Trustee
Trustee
Trustee
Trustee
Trustee
Trustee
Trustee

Stephen D. Brownhill
Angela T. Blodgett
Bruce Diehl
Ellis Scott
Denise Hill
Lisa A. Saxton
Rebecca L. Anderson
Richard K. Brooks, III
Sally E. Kilby

Consultants

Legal Counsel

McGuireWoods, LLP
Zauner & Mtimet, P.A.

Independent Public Accountant
Administrator
Actuary

SB & Company, LLC
Prudential
Bolton Partners, Inc.

FINANCIAL SECTION



S B & COMPANY, LLC
KNOWLEDGE • QUALITY • CLIENT SERVICE

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

To the County Executive and County Council and
The Citizens of Cecil County, Maryland

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Cecil County Pension Plan for Public Safety Employees (the Plan), a fiduciary fund of Cecil County, Maryland, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2018, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Plan's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The Plan's 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 controls 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 the basic financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the basic financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the basic financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the basic financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal controls relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the basic 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 entity's internal controls. 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 basic financial statements.

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

Opinion

In our opinion, the basic financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the Plan, as of June 30, 2018, and the respective changes in its financial position thereof for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.



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Other Matters

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis and the required supplementary schedule of changes in the County's net pension liability and related ratios, schedule of County contributions and schedule of investment returns 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 evidence sufficient to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Other Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Plan's basic financial statements. The accompanying introductory section and other supplementary information as listed in the accompanying table of contents are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements.

The accompanying other supplementary information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the 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 basic financial statements or to the basic 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 as a whole.

The introductory section 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.

Hunt Valley, Maryland
December 11, 2018

**THE CECIL COUNTY PENSION PLAN
FOR PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYEES
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2018**

The Trustees of the Cecil County Pension Plan for Public Safety Employees are pleased to present to readers of the financial statements of the Plan this narrative overview and analysis of the financial activities of the Plan for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2018.

Financial Highlights

The assets of the Plan exceeded its liabilities at the close of the fiscal year by \$56,068,461 (net position). The Plan's net investment income decreased from \$6,587,039 in 2017 to \$4,490,113 in 2018 mainly due to a record breaking stock market in 2017. Pension benefits to retired participants increased from \$1,909,418 in 2017 to \$2,002,499 in 2018. Return of contributions and interest to terminating participants decreased from \$332,399 in 2017 to \$262,997 in 2018. As of June 30, 2018, the Plan had 269 active members, 97 retired participants, 1 disabled participant and 22 terminated vested members not yet receiving benefits.

Overview of the Financial Statements

This discussion and analysis is an introduction to the Plan's basic financial statements. The Plan's basic financial statements are comprised of three components: 1) Statement of Plan Net Position, 2) Statement of Change in Plan Net Position, and 3) Notes to the Financial Statements.

The Statement of Plan Net Position (page 6) presents information on all of the Plan's assets and liabilities, with the difference between the two reported as net position. Over time, increases or decreases in net position may serve as a useful indicator of whether the financial position of the Plan is improving or deteriorating.

The Statement of Change in Plan Net Position (page 7) presents information showing how the Plan's net position changed during the most recent fiscal year. All changes in net position are reported as soon as the underlying event giving rise to the change occurs, regardless of the timing of related cash flows.

The Plan is reported as a fiduciary fund of the Cecil County, Maryland, government.

Notes to the financial statements. The notes provide additional information that is essential to a full understanding of the data provided in the financial statements. The notes to the financial statements can be found beginning on page 8 of this report.

Required Supplementary Information. The Required Supplementary Information and related notes provide additional information that is essential to a full understanding of the funding progress of the pension plan. The information can be found beginning on page 15 of this report.

Additional information. Other supplementary information is shown on page 18.

**The Cecil County Pension Plan for Public Safety Employees
Management's Discussion and Analysis, June 30, 2018**

Financial Analysis of the Plan

Net Position. The following is a year-to-year comparison of the net position of the Plan.

	<u>June 30, 2018</u>	<u>June 30, 2017</u>	<u>Increase (Decrease) Amount</u>	<u>Increase (Decrease) Percentage</u>
<u>Assets</u>				
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 285,115	\$ 235,212	\$ 49,903	21.2%
Investments, at Fair Value	<u>55,793,749</u>	<u>51,035,705</u>	<u>4,758,044</u>	9.3%
Total Assets	56,078,864	51,270,917	4,807,947	9.4%
<u>Liabilities</u>				
Total Liabilities	<u>10,403</u>	<u>4,488</u>	<u>5,915</u>	131.8%
<u>Net Position</u>				
Held in Trust for Pension Benefits	<u>\$ 56,068,461</u>	<u>\$ 51,266,429</u>	<u>\$ 4,802,032</u>	9.4%

Net Plan position increased by 9.4% to \$56,068,461. The increase in net position of \$4,802,032 was made up of the following components: contributions from employer and active participants of \$2,632,355, net investment income of \$4,490,113, benefit and return of contribution payments of \$2,265,496 and administrative expenses of \$54,940.

Changes in Net Position. A year-to-year comparison of changes of plan net position is as follows:

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>Increase (Decrease) Amount</u>	<u>Increase (Decrease) Percentage</u>
<u>Additions</u>				
Contributions	\$ 2,632,355	\$ 3,060,642	\$ (428,287)	-14.0%
Net Investment Income (Loss)	<u>4,490,113</u>	<u>6,587,039</u>	<u>(2,096,926)</u>	-31.8%
Total Additions	7,122,468	9,647,681	(2,525,213)	-26.2%
<u>Deductions</u>				
Pension Benefit Payments	2,002,499	1,909,418	93,081	4.9%
Refunds of Contributions	262,997	332,399	(69,402)	-20.9%
Administrative Expenses	<u>54,940</u>	<u>56,331</u>	<u>(1,391)</u>	-2.5%
Total Deductions	<u>2,320,436</u>	<u>2,298,148</u>	<u>22,288</u>	1.0%
Changes in Net Position	<u>\$ 4,802,032</u>	<u>\$ 7,349,533</u>	<u>\$ (2,547,501)</u>	-34.7%

The Plan experienced an increase of \$4,802,032 in net position in fiscal year 2018. Total contributions decreased \$428,287 or 14.0% over 2017. Net investment income decreased year

The Cecil County Pension Plan for Public Safety Employees Management's Discussion and Analysis, June 30, 2018

over year by \$2,096,926 as fiscal year 2017 experienced a record breaking stock market. In addition, annuity benefits increased by \$93,081 or 4.9% mainly due to an increase in the number of retired participants. The Plan experienced a \$1,391 or 2.5% decrease in administrative expenses. As of June 30, 2018, the Plan had 97 retired participants and 1 disabled participant receiving benefits, which included 4 new retirees during fiscal year 2018. In addition, there were 22 vested terminations not yet eligible to receive benefits as of June 30, 2018. Contribution refunds of \$262,997 were paid to 33 terminated participants in 2018 versus \$332,399 to 29 terminated participants in 2017.

Requests for Information

This financial report is designed to provide a general overview of the Plan's finances to participants in the Plan, the citizens of Cecil County, and other users of such data. Requests for additional copies of this report, an actuarial report, a list of investments, questions concerning any of the information in this report, and requests for additional financial information should be addressed to Lisa A. Saxton, Cecil County Director of Finance, 200 Chesapeake Blvd, Suite 1100, Elkton, Maryland 21921.

BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**THE CECIL COUNTY PENSION PLAN
FOR PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYEES
STATEMENT OF PLAN NET POSITION
AS OF JUNE 30, 2018**

ASSETS

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 285,115
Investments, at Fair Value (note 7)	<u>55,793,749</u>
Total Assets	56,078,864

LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable	<u>10,403</u>
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NET POSITION

Held in Trust for Pension Benefits	<u>\$ 56,068,461</u>
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The accompanying notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

**THE CECIL COUNTY PENSION PLAN
FOR PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYEES
STATEMENT OF CHANGE IN PLAN NET POSITION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2018**

ADDITIONS

Contributions	
Cecil County	\$ 1,676,936
Participants	<u>955,419</u>
 Total Contributions	 <u>2,632,355</u>

INVESTMENT INCOME

Net Appreciation	
in Fair Value of Investments	3,380,764
Interest and Dividends	<u>1,465,136</u>
 Investment Income	 4,845,900
 Less: Investment Expense	 <u>(355,787)</u>
 Net Investment Income	 <u>4,490,113</u>
 Total Additions	 <u>7,122,468</u>

DEDUCTIONS

Pension Benefit Payments	2,002,499
Refunds of Contributions	262,997
Administrative Expense	<u>54,940</u>
 Total Deductions	 <u>2,320,436</u>

Change in Net Position 4,802,032

**Held in Trust
for Pension Benefits**

Net Position - Beginning	<u>51,266,429</u>
 Net Position - Ending	 <u>\$ 56,068,461</u>

The accompanying notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

The Cecil County Pension Plan for Public Safety Employees
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2018

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The financial statements of the Cecil County Pension Plan for Public Safety Employees (the Plan) have been prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) in the United States as applicable to governments. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard-setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principals. During the year ending June 30, 2018, the Plan has adopted all GASB Statements through No. 82, entitled Pension Issues. These statements did not have a material effect on the Plan's financial statements.

The following summarizes the Plan's significant accounting policies:

Financial Reporting Entity

The Cecil County Pension Plan for Public Safety Employees was established effective July 1, 2002, under a plan document and trust agreement enacted by the Cecil County Board of Commissioners to provide retirement benefits to certain law enforcement and emergency services personnel. The Plan is a single-employer public employee defined benefit pension plan. Responsibility for the administration and operation of the Plan is vested in a 9-member Board of Trustees appointed by the County Executive and subject to confirmation by the County Council. The County's Human Resources Department and Finance Department provide professional and accounting services as needed.

Although the Plan is a legally separate entity, the County appoints all members of the Plan's Board of Trustees and makes all employer contributions to the Plan. Only County public safety employees can be members of the Plan and the County is financially responsible for the Plan's pension obligations. The Plan is a blended component unit of Cecil County, Maryland, because it provides services and benefits exclusively to the County.

Additional copies of this annual financial report and actuarial information should be addressed to Lisa A. Saxton, Cecil County Director of Finance, 200 Chesapeake Blvd, Suite 1100, Elkton, Maryland 21921

Basis of Accounting

The Plan's financial statements are prepared using the accrual basis of accounting. Plan member contributions are recognized in the period in which the contributions are due. Employer contributions to the Plan are recognized when due and the employer has made a formal commitment to provide the contributions. Benefits and refunds of contributions are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the terms of the Plan.

Investments

Investments are reported at fair value. Securities traded on a national or international exchange are valued at the last reported sales price at current exchange rates. For fixed income securities, fair value may be based on quoted market prices.

The pension plan is authorized by the Plan and a trust agreement with the County Council of Cecil County to establish an investment policy and invest long-term to pay benefits to plan members. The investment policy allocates investments between 1) large, mid and small capitalization stocks,

The Cecil County Pension Plan for Public Safety Employees
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2018

and international equities traded on national exchanges; 2) fixed income domestic debt securities traded on national exchanges; and 3) cash equivalents (deposits or short-term investments maturing within a year). Certain investments are prohibited. Specific allocation targets are reviewed annually and are to be diversified as follows:

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target Allocation</u>
U.S. Large cap equities	17%
U.S. Mid cap equities	15%
U.S. Small cap equities	20%
International equities	12%
Emerging Markets	3%
Fixed Income	<u>33%</u>
Total	100%

Rate of Return. For the year ended June 30, 2018, the annual money-weighted rate of return on pension plan investments, net of pension plan investment expense, was an 8.79%.

Fair Value Measurements

The Plan categorizes its fair value measurements with the fair value hierarchy established by generally accepted accounting principles. The hierarchy is based on the valuation inputs used to measure the fair value of the asset.

- Level 1 – Valuations based on unadjusted quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in active markets;
- Level 2 – Valuations based on quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets or identical assets or liabilities in less active markets, such as dealer or broker markets; and
- Level 3 – Valuations derived from valuation techniques in which one or more significant inputs or significant value drivers are unobservable, such as pricing models, discounted cash flow models and similar techniques not based on market, exchange, dealer or broker-traded transactions

2. Plan Membership

Membership of the Plan consisted of the following as of June 30, 2018, provided by the Plan administrator.

Retirees and Beneficiaries receiving Benefits	97
Disabled & Disabled Beneficiaries	1
Vested Terminations not yet eligible to receive benefits	22
Terminated Plan members non-vested and due a return of contribution	66
Active Plan Members	<u>269</u>
Total	<u>455</u>

The Cecil County Pension Plan for Public Safety Employees
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2018

3. Plan Description Summary

The following summary description does not replace any Plan documents.

Plan Description and Eligibility: The Plan is a single-employer defined benefit plan that covers all full-time employees on the County's Public Safety Pay Plan hired after June 30, 2002, employees who have opted to convert from the Maryland State Retirement and Pension System (MSRPS) to the Plan, and the Cecil County Sheriff.

Service Benefits: Monthly income for life is based on 2.0% of average annual compensation multiplied by years of service, not to exceed 25 years, divided by 12. Average annual compensation is one third of the compensation of the covered employee during whatever period of 36 consecutive months of creditable service will provide the largest total compensation for any such period.

Vesting: 100% with 5 or more years of eligible service. Contributions are refunded upon termination for less than 5 years of service with interest of 5% on accumulated contributions.

Retirement: Normal – First of the month coincident with or immediately following the earlier of 25 years of eligible service or attainment of age 55 with 5 years of eligible service. Early – with 20 years of eligible service regardless of age, the normal retirement benefit is reduced by 6% per year for each year prior to the normal retirement date.

Disability Benefits: Benefit for ordinary disability is based on years of creditable service. Benefit for disability occurring in the line of duty is a monthly payment of 66.67% of average annual compensation reduced by any social security and worker's compensation benefits; there is no minimum service requirement. Applications are reviewed by a disability review board.

Survivor Benefit: Various depending on the option of the participant.

Death Benefit: Ordinary – After one year of creditable service, the surviving spouse shall receive a lump sum equal to participant's contributions plus interest plus one year of pay. Line of duty – has no eligibility requirement and a monthly benefit is paid to the surviving spouse (for life) or, if there is no surviving spouse, to minor children (until maturity). In the absence of a surviving spouse or minor children, benefits calculated as if ordinary will be paid to a named beneficiary or, lacking this, to the estate of the participant.

4. Contributions

Plan members are required to contribute 8% of the base compensation. Base compensation excludes overtime, extra-remuneration, reimbursed expenses, and essentially excludes tax related adjustments. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a participant shall not be required to make any further contributions to the Plan on and after the date on which such participant is credited with twenty-five years of creditable service.

Cecil County as the employer is required to make actuarially determined annual contribution amounts.

This Plan is the successor to a plan offered by the State Retirement and Pensions System of Maryland (the State Plan). As such, assets related to participants of the State Plan who opted to

**The Cecil County Pension Plan for Public Safety Employees
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2018**

become participants of the new plan were transferred to the Plan in several transactions during fiscal years 2003 and 2004.

5. Net Pension Liability of the County

The County's net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2018 and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date.

Actuarial Assumptions: The total pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of July 1, 2017 rolled forward to June 30, 2018 using the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement:

Asset Valuation Method	5-year smoothed market
Inflation	2.5%
Salary increases	Rates vary by participant service
Investment rate of return	7.0%, net of pension plan investment expense, including inflation
Mortality	For healthy participants and beneficiaries, the RP-2014 Combined Healthy tables with the Blue Collar adjustment and generational projection by Scale MP-2015. For disabled participants, the table is set forward five years.

The actuarial assumptions used in the June 30, 2018 valuation are largely based on an experience study completed in 2008, reflecting July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2007 experience. However, the Plan hired a new actuary in 2012, who reviewed the assumptions in light of more recent experience and revised a number of assumptions, including the investment return, inflation, salary increase, mortality, employee termination and administrative expense, prior to preparing an experience study in 2018. The Plan Trustees intend to authorize periodic experience studies in the future.

The long-term expected rate of return of pension plan investments was determined using a building-block method in which best-estimates ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected returns, net of pension plan investment expense and inflation) are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation (2.0%). The target allocation and best estimates of geometric real rates of return for each major asset class are summarized in the following table:

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target Allocation</u>	<u>Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return</u>
Domestic equity	52%	6.15%
International equity	12%	7.11%
Emerging Markets	3%	9.41%
Fixed income	33%	1.68%
Cash	0%	1.06%

Discount Rate: The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 7.0 percent. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed the plan member contributions will be made at the current contribution rate and that the County contributions will be made at rates equal to the difference between actuarially determined contribution rates and the member rate. Based on those assumptions, the pension plan's fiduciary net position was projected

The Cecil County Pension Plan for Public Safety Employees
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2018

to be available to make all projected future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of the projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability.

Changes in the Net Pension Liability

	Total Pension Liability (a)	Plan Fiduciary Net Position (b)	Net Pension Liability (a) - (b)
Balances at 6/30/17	\$ 56,574,685	\$ 51,266,429	\$ 5,308,256
Changes for the year:			
Service cost	2,417,404	-	2,417,404
Interest	3,880,936	-	3,880,936
Diff. btwn expected and actual experience	1,283,613	-	1,283,613
Changes of assumptions	-	-	-
Contributions - employer	-	1,676,936	(1,676,936)
Contributions - member	-	955,419	(955,419)
Net investment income	-	4,490,113	(4,490,113)
Benefit payment, including refunds	(2,265,496)	(2,265,496)	
member contributions	-	(54,940)	54,940
Administrative expense	-	-	-
Net Changes	<u>5,316,457</u>	<u>4,802,032</u>	<u>514,425</u>
Balances at 6/30/18	<u>\$ 61,891,142</u>	<u>\$ 56,068,461</u>	<u>\$ 5,822,681</u>

Sensitivity of the net pension liability to changes in the discount rate. The following presents the net pension liability of the County, calculated using the discount rate of 7.0 percent, as well as what the County's net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1 percentage point lower (6.0 percent) or 1 percentage point higher (8.0 percent) than the current rate:

	1% Decrease 6.00%	Current Discount Rate 7.00%	1% Increase 8.00%
County's Net Pension Liability	\$ 15,147,729	\$ 5,822,681	\$ (1,693,974)

**The Cecil County Pension Plan for Public Safety Employees
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2018**

6. Cash Deposits and Investment Portfolio Disclosure

Investment policy information was discussed in Note 1. As of June 30, 2018, the Plan had the following investments. Money market mutual funds are classified as cash and cash equivalents on the Statement of Net Assets.

Money Market Mutual Fund	\$ 285,115
Investments at fair value	55,793,749
Total Investments	<u><u>\$56,078,864</u></u>

Below is a list of Investments the Plan was invested in as of June 30, 2018:

MFS Investment Management - Large Cap Growth	\$ 5,642,019
Aronson+Johnson+Ortiz (AJO) - Large Cap Value	5,168,463
QMA Fund - Mid Cap Value	4,540,005
Frontier Capital Management - Mid Cap Growth	4,866,375
Prudential Jennison - Small Cap Growth	5,854,475
Integrity Asset Management - Small Cap Value	5,833,445
Pictet Asset Management - International Blend	6,861,056
JP Morgan Emerging Markets -Equity Institutional	1,793,558
Prudential Core Bond Enhanced Index - Fixed Inc. Dom.	7,384,417
Prudential Core Plus Bond Fund - Fixed Inc. Dom.	7,849,936
Total Investments at fair value	<u><u>\$ 55,793,749</u></u>

The summary below identifies the fair market value level of the investments as of June 30, 2018

	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)	Balance as of June 30
<u>Investments by Fair Value Level:</u>				
Institutional Separate Accounts	\$ -	\$ 48,145,716	\$ -	\$ 48,145,716
Equity Mutual Funds	7,648,033	-	-	7,648,033
Total Investments at Fair Value	<u><u>\$ 7,648,033</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 48,145,716</u></u>	<u><u>\$ -</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 55,793,749</u></u>

Fair Market Value Levels: Equity Mutual funds listed on a national market or exchange are valued at the last sales price, or, if there is no sale and the market is still considered active, at the mean of the last bid and asked prices on such exchange. Such securities are classified within Level 1 of the valuation hierarchy. Institutional Separate accounts classified in level 2 of the fair value hierarchy are valued based on quoted prices for similar assets in active markets or identical assets in less active markets, such as dealers or broker markets.

Interest Rate Risk: The Plan's formal investment policy does not limit investment maturities as a

The Cecil County Pension Plan for Public Safety Employees
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2018

means of managing its exposure to fair value losses arising from increasing interest rates.

Concentration of Credit Risk: The Plan's investment policy applies the prudent person rule to its investments. The Plan invests in institutional separate accounts, which are essentially mutual funds. This sub-advised approach provides the Plan with access to some of the most respected investment professionals in the industry. The investment policy establishes an asset allocation by asset class where allowable ranges are identified by asset class. Rebalancing is performed on at least a quarterly basis, as appropriate, such that the allocation for each asset class shall not exceed the bounds of the allowable ranges. As of June 30, 2018, the Plan complied with the Plan's investment policy.

Credit Risk: No rating was available for the money market mutual fund. The Plan holds ten institutional separate accounts, which were rated by Morning Star, of which one received a 5 star rating, three received a 4 star rating, and six of the accounts received a 3 star rating, with 5 being the best and 1 being the worst.

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY
INFORMATION
&
OTHER SUPPLEMENTARY
INFORMATION

**THE CECIL COUNTY PENSION PLAN
FOR PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYEES
SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN THE COUNTY'S
NET PENSION LIABILITY AND RELATED RATIOS**
(dollar amounts in thousands)

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Total Pension Liability					
Service cost	\$2,417	\$ 2,336	\$ 2,339	\$ 2,284	\$ 2,198
Interest	3,881	3,770	3,553	3,327	2,922
Differences between expected and actual experience	1,284	(1,268)	(736)	(1,215)	-
Changes of assumptions	-	(998)	-	675	2,298
Benefit payments, including refunds of member contributions	(2,265)	(2,242)	(1,878)	(1,809)	(1,456)
Net change in total pension liability	5,316	1,598	3,278	3,262	5,963
Total pension liability - beginning	56,575	54,977	51,699	48,437	42,475
Total pension liability - ending (a)	<u>\$ 61,891</u>	<u>\$ 56,575</u>	<u>\$ 54,977</u>	<u>\$ 51,699</u>	<u>\$ 48,437</u>
Plan fiduciary net position					
Contributions - employer	\$ 1,677	\$ 2,103	\$ 2,288	\$ 2,200	\$ 2,268
Contributions - member	955	958	925	910	878
Net investment income	4,490	6,587	(1,304)	1,317	6,149
Benefit payments, including refunds of member contributions	(2,265)	(2,242)	(1,878)	(1,809)	(1,456)
Administrative expense	(55)	(56)	(67)	(47)	(33)
Other	-	-	-	(4)	-
Net change in plan fiduciary net position	\$ 4,802	\$ 7,350	\$ (35)	\$ 2,567	\$ 7,805
Plan fiduciary net position - beginning	51,266	43,917	43,952	41,385	33,580
Plan fiduciary net position - ending (b)	<u>\$ 56,068</u>	<u>\$ 51,266</u>	<u>\$ 43,917</u>	<u>\$ 43,952</u>	<u>\$ 41,385</u>
County's net pension liability - ending (a)-(b)	<u>\$ 5,823</u>	<u>\$ 5,308</u>	<u>\$ 11,060</u>	<u>\$ 7,747</u>	<u>\$ 7,052</u>
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability	90.59%	90.62%	79.88%	85.02%	85.44%
Covered employee payroll	\$ 12,526	\$ 11,869	\$ 11,638	\$ 11,506	\$ 10,968
County's net pension liability as a percentage of covered-employee payroll	46.48%	44.72%	95.04%	67.33%	64.29%
Expected average remaining service years of all participants	6	6	6	6	6

Notes to schedule:

Information for fiscal year 2013 and earlier is not available

Benefit Changes: None

Change of assumptions: None

**THE CECIL COUNTY PENSION PLAN
FOR PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYEES
SCHEDULE OF COUNTY CONTRIBUTIONS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2018**
(dollar amounts in thousands)

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Actuarially determined contribution	\$ 1,677	\$ 2,103	\$ 2,171	\$ 2,200	\$ 2,268
Contributions in relation to the actuarially determined contribution	1,677	2,103	2,288	2,200	2,268
Contribution deficiency (excess)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (117)	\$ -	\$ -
Covered employee payroll	\$ 12,526	\$ 11,869	\$ 11,638	\$ 11,506	\$ 10,968
Contributions as a percentage of covered employee payroll	13.39%	17.72%	19.66%	19.12%	20.68%

Notes to schedule:

Valuation date:

Actuarially determined contribution rates are calculated as of the beginning of the fiscal year (July 1) for the year immediately following the fiscal year. Actuarial valuations are performed every year.

Methods and assumptions used to determine contribution rates:

Actuarial cost method	Projected Unit Credit
Amortization method	Level Percentage of Payroll
Remaining amortization period	No more than 20 years
Asset valuation method	5-year smoothed market
Inflation	2.5%
Salary increases	Rates vary by participant service
Investment rate of return	7.0%, net of pension plan investment expense, including inflation
Retirement age	Rates vary by participant age and service
Mortality	For healthy participants and beneficiaries, the RFP-2014 Combined Healthy tables with the Blue Collar adjustment and generational projection by Scale MP-2015. For disabled participants, the table is set forward five years.

Other information: Information for fiscal year 2013 and earlier is not available

**THE CECIL COUNTY PENSION PLAN
FOR PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYEES
SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENT RETURNS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2018**

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Annual money-weighted rate of return, net of investment expense	8.79%	14.82%	-2.93%	3.10%	17.88%

Notes to schedule:

This schedule is presented to illustrate the requirement to show information for 10 years. However, until a full 10 year trend is complied, pension plans should present information for those years for which information is available.

**THE CECIL COUNTY PENSION PLAN
FOR PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYEES
OTHER SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2018**

SCHEDULE OF ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

Professional Fees		\$ 49,610
Insurance		<u>5,330</u>
 Total Administrative Expenses		 <u>\$ 54,940</u>

SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENT EXPENSES

Investment Managers		\$ 320,787
Investment Consultant		<u>35,000</u>
 Total Investment Expenses		 <u>\$ 355,787</u>

SCHEDULE OF PROFESSIONAL FEES PAID TO CONSULTANTS

<u>Type of Service</u>	<u>Consultant</u>	
Administrator	Prudential	\$ 2,897
Auditing	SB & Company, LLC	5,306
Actuary	Bolton Partners, Inc	34,185
Legal	Zauner & Mtimet, P.A	(770)
Legal	McGuireWoods, LLP	<u>7,992</u>
 Total Payments to Consultants		 <u>\$ 49,610</u>