IN RE:

FORENSIC AUDIT PRESS CONFERENCE

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MR. GULLIFORD: I want to thank you-all for coming. I want to start off by introducing the folks on my left. Obviously many of you recognize them, but I would start with Councilman Lori Boyer, Councilman Jim Love, Councilwoman Anna Brosche, State Representative Janet Adkins, John Crescimbeni (microphone fell) -- Fox News or Action News, you've got to redo your thing here. I know who did that. Get up here and fix that.

Councilman John Crescimbeni, nattily attired in that orange and blue tie. And our guests from down south, Ted Siedle, or Edward Siedle, as his formal name is.

We, of course, today are presenting the 147 -- or 143 page, something like that, forensic investigation of the Police and Fire Pension Fund.

For a number of people, this forensic investigation of the Police and Fire Pension Fund would generate the obvious emotion: Anger. But for me, getting past the anger, I feel profound sadness for our citizens. With all the needs in this city I witnessed in my over four years on the council, the revelations by this report are

reprehensible.

A vast and staggering sum of money has been recklessly squandered and now lost forever to this community. From higher paid police officers, firefighters, general employees, to downtown development, neighborhood revitalization, children's programs, better streets, whatever the need, we don't have the money.

Why? Because of a huge unfunded, bloated and excessively expensive pension fund that no one was properly watching. And, yes, there's plenty of blame to spread around. For those who have been party to this loss, shame on you. Driven by greed, indifference, ignorance, complacency, lack of attention or whatever the reason, those individuals carry a large burden of guilt.

Each of us shares in that guilt to some degree, however, from citizens, unions, city government and even the media. It started in 2000 with an ill-conceived and illogical 30-year agreement.

Coming forward, there were numerous red flags, including a serious warning from Florida

Taxwatch. We did nothing. The report itself is an indictment and begs the question, Who was really watching?

The audit points out one major consideration. It would be bad enough that the fund has been excessive with its administrative expenses, but to compound the condition, it has done a miserable job of ensuring proper return on its assets.

Mr. Siedle indicates a \$370 million loss in returns, but the very least, comparing the fund performance to a very conservative Standard & Poors benchmark.

There's questionable conduct on the part of the executive director, fund managers, general counsel and even board members. Need an example? How about the continuing legal battle over a \$300-plus public records request that the fund has now spent almost \$400,000 defending?

It continues -- and they continue to fight even though they've lost at every judicial level. Ridiculous. For what purpose?

There is more than enough in the report to raise ire and questions. I'll leave it to you to review the specifics and the details in the

copies provided. You will hear some of those responsible claim the report is flawed or inaccurate.

Let me remind you that Edward Siedle, the gentleman who audited the fund, has impeccable credentials. Simply to go to his web page will show for yourself those credentials. I dare you could not -- I dare to say you could not find a person in this country more qualified to conduct such an audit, and he has done pension audits for major cities, counties and Fortune 500 companies.

To those who say there are inaccuracies, my answer to you is: Prove it.

Also, I want to remind you that the fund was less than cooperative in providing some of the information he sought, hence the need for the finance committee to issue subpoenas for some of the information on these.

But finger-pointing is not a solution. More than anything else this audit is a call to action. I promise the time that I have left on this council I will push continuing investigation and reform.

Lest we forget, we have a serious and unresolved funding problem with the General

Employees Pension Fund. Attention to that fund has been ignored for the past four years, and it's time to initiate resolution to address its huge unfunded liability.

I urge my colleagues in the administration to seek answers, find the funding needed and continue to press for reform. There are serious questions still to be answered and steps taken.

I have been assured by Mr. Siedle that with additional information we might provide from our subpoenas or other sources, there will be supplements to his audit.

The silver lining in all of this is that we're coming to grips with our problems and solution and situation. We have taken positive steps with our recent reform legislation.

I recognize that without the affirmative vote of the Police and Fire Pension Fund Board, we would not have been successful. I believe they know the seriousness of this for all of our community.

With the administration we are addressing the potential resources of funding to reduce the unfunded liability. The governance provisions in the reform legislation are equally important, and that was due to the great work of the pension reform task force headed by Bill Scheu.

The way forward is tough, but collectively as a community we will solve it and make it stronger for the future, protecting not only taxpayers, but the police officers and firefighters who are served by this pension.

De Tocqueville said, "The greatness of America lies not in being more enlightened than any other nation, but rather her ability to repair her faults."

We will repair our faults once and for all. Thank you.

And with that, I'm going to afford

Mr. Siedle an opportunity to make any comments he would like to make and anyone else up here. I would like to call on Representative Adkins too to have an opportunity to do that. You can ask them any questions you want.

So, Mr. Siedle.

MR. SIEDLE: Thank you.

I would like to thank the people of

Jacksonville for trusting me to do this

investigation. Forensic investigations are never

fun, but they're necessary. The investigation,

in a nutshell, showed that this pension adopted the highest federal ERISA fiduciary standards and told the public that it would be observing these higher standards. In fact, the pension didn't even observe state standards.

So like the Hebrew National commercial where they say, we have to answer to a higher authority, this pension didn't even answer to the lowest authority that they were required to follow.

I would -- I'll answer any questions that you-all have.

MS. KELLEY: Eileen Kelley, Florida Times-Union.

If you were to rank the pension fund -- I know you've done other forensic investigations -- would you give it any sort of grade letter?

MR. SIEDLE: I would give it a D minus, and one of the reasons I would give it such a -- such a low rating is because of the profound lack of transparency. Lack of transparency is a red flag. By red flag, I mean, it's a red alert.

In the context of a forensic investigation of a severely underfunded, highly controversial pension, to have that to create a lack of

cooperation is very disturbing. 1 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: What does the term 2 "forensic investigation" mean? What did you do 3 4 to make it a forensic investigation? 5 MR. SIEDLE: Forensic means evidence 6 suitable for a court of law. So it really refers 7 to the quality of the proof that you're analyzing, and that's all it means, simply. 8 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: You admitted you had 9 trouble getting copies. What were you looking at 10 (inaudible) 11 MR. SIEDLE: Some of the fundamental 12 documents that we need to look at are documents 13 14 that indicate the performance of the investments of the pension. 15 What we discovered was that the documents 16 17 that we were provided were clearly wrong, and the 18 consultant to the pension agreed that they were 19 clearly wrong. 20 So that's a key issue. If you don't know 21 how the pension has performed, then you cannot analyze how severe the losses may have been. 22 23 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: What documents did you 24 use to reach those conclusions (inaudible) 25 MR. SIEDLE: The documents were --

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: How did you reach those 1 conclusions (inaudible) 2 3 MR. SIEDLE: The documents -- we were 4 provided certain documents and many of the 5 documents were -- we requested documents over a 6 20-year period and we were given only ten years 7 worth of documents. But we worked with the documents we were provided, we worked with the 8 documents that are on the funds' website, and we 9 also used collateral sources. 10 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Are you of the opinion 11 that what you found is criminal? 12 MR. SIEDLE: Hopefully not. But until we 13 see the evidence, the information we've 14 requested, we won't have an answer to whether 15 16 there's potential criminality or not. 17 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: So what should happen 18 now? 19 MR. SIEDLE: It's my understanding that the 20 city council either will or has already issued subpoenas for the information that the fund has 21 22 failed to provide. 23 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: You mentioned several 24 hundred million dollars in potential losses, 25 unrealized investments, things like that. Can

you break down for just the average person or the average person that's vested in that fund, what exactly does that kind of large number mean for what we could have today?

MR. SIEDLE: Well, first thing to remember is we don't know the performance of this fund, and according to the board and the consultant to the fund, they don't know the performance of the fund.

So we are analyzing -- we are -- our estimates are based upon suspect data to begin with. But what we're looking at is how would the fund have performed, how much more money or less money would it have today had it been invested in a representative index of 75 percent of the S&P 500 and 25 percent on a bond index.

And so what we found was over the last 20 years, it had underperformed by 370 million.

Again, we don't know if that number is too high, too low, because nobody has the accurate performance data.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Underperforming by potentially that amount of money, if that had been realized, would that have been more funding toward the pension debt? Would that have been

better benefits, pay-outs for those vested?

MR. GULLIFORD: That would have meant -let's assume 370 million is a real number. That
means \$370 million less contribution on the
contribution on the part of the city in some form
or fashion; i.e., taxpayers.

Yeah. That would have phased out all our septic tanks in the city, by the way.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Mr. Siedle, can you talk a little bit about the travel that's mentioned in this report by John Keane and the board members? He's obviously taken a lot of -- not a lot of vacation and he's getting paid for that now that he's retired.

MR. SIEDLE: Well, as I mentioned in the report, travel to -- extensive travel to exotic locations has been a controversial issue for public pension trustees across the country. This has long been a major controversy.

And the travel that we see here is -- has been extensive and, in my opinion, unwarranted. So there was some great work done by the city ethics officer who uncovered just how expensive some of the travel had been.

In my opinion, there is no justification

for using pension assets to that extreme.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Of all the pensions you've reviewed, how does this one rank, bottom, quarter, the middle?

MR. SIEDLE: Well, I gave it a D minus rating. So I would say it's certainly in the bottom quarter.

But the lack of transparency, again, is critical. The fact that this information in this context has not been provided is very alarming. I think citizens should be very, very worried about that.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: You and I talked about this yesterday. What can the city do to try to get some of this money back? Is it possible to get any money back?

MR. SIEDLE: Well, the report recommends that the city contact the FBI, the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Department of Justice, the Florida Bar. And we -- possibly the attorney general.

But what needs to happen is we need to go through the pension and look at all the agreements they have with all of their money managers. Many of those agreements were drafted

wrongly. They indicate that the fund is not subject to ERISA fiduciary standards.

So a review needs to be done of how the money was actually managed, and if there are any losses because the money was improperly invested, then they could potentially be recoverable.

Also, under ERISA the board itself is personally liable. One of the things I bring out in the report is that the board doesn't have any insurance. So when the board fights citizens over public records requests, they spend pension money to do that. Under ERISA, that's unacceptable.

So these are some of the changes that need to be made. And under ERISA all the money managers, all the staff, all the board could be potentially personally liable.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: To the extent the pension fund does pay for travel, have lawyers and fees, where should that money have come from if not from the pension funds?

What should be the source of that funding for the pension fund to operate?

MR. SIEDLE: Well, the pension fund can't -- assets from the pension fund could be used

1 conservatively to -- as long as they're used for the -- under ERISA, the exclusive benefit of the 2 3 participants. 4 So a certain amount of limited travel could 5 be possibly paid for out of the plan. It's a 6 question of use versus abuse. 7 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: And the same thing for attorney's fees. If someone sues for public 8 requests, where should the money come from 9 because -- money to fight (inaudible) 10 Well, that's what you have 11 MR. SIEDLE: insurance for. And an insurer imposes a 12 discipline and tells boards that they should stop 13 doing certain things. An insurer provides a 14 check-and-balance to the system. 15 So that's where if the board is sued, the 16 insurance should kick in and cover the cost. 17 18 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: In your experience, is 19 it uncommon for a municipal pension fund not to use these conservative index funds that you 20 21 compared it to? 22 Is that -- is it common practice to use a 23 conservative fund that you were comparing that 24 370 million underperformance to?

MR. SIEDLE: It's standard throughout the

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industry to compare actively managed funds with a

standard -- S&P 500 bond index.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Do they normally

outperform?

MR. SIEDLE: Some do. Some don't,

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Do other -- is it uncommon to find a pension fund that isn't using the index that you're using for the bench line?

Do some funds just go ahead and use that?

MR. SIEDLE: Well, the pension fund does use those indexes for comparing the management.

ERISA, by the way, for those of you who don't know, is the Employee Retirement Income Security Act. And it is a comprehensive federal regulation that applies to all the private corporate pension plans.

ERISA ironically does not cover public pension plans. So that's the loophole that swallowed the act almost. So public pension funds throughout the nation involving trillions of dollars are not subject to any comprehensive federal law.

However, this pension fund adopted ERISA to apply and indicated that all of the staff, the board staff and all the vendors to the fund would

1 be subject to high ERISA fiduciary standards. MR. GULLIFORD: She's got one last question. 2 3 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Did the board not have 4 insurance because it didn't want it or because it 5 couldn't get it? Are they just not typically insured or? 6 7 MR. SIEDLE: Boards typically have insurance. 8 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: So this board in 9 particular opted out? 10 MR. SIEDLE: I don't know. 11 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: But they didn't have 12 13 it? They did not. Neither of your 14 MR. SIEDLE: pensions have insurance. Neither of the two city 15 pension boards, it's my understanding, have 16 insurance. 17 18 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: This may be a question 19 more for someone with the city or the 20 representative --Okay. I'll tell you what, 21 MR. GULLIFORD: 22 before we do that, I'm going to give 23 Representative Adkins an opportunity to speak, 24 and then if any of my colleagues, if they want to 25 kick in, and then we'll open up questions of

anybody you want to ask.

REPRESENTATIVE ADKINS: Thank you.

I'm here today to applaud the Jacksonville
City Council for authorizing this forensic audit.
It's important that the people of Jacksonville
have public confidence and public trust restored.
And this is a first step. This is a very
important first step.

So I want to thank you, Councilman Gulliford, for taking the lead on this very important issue.

When you look at -- when you look at all of our employees who depend every day on this pension, it's important that we make sure that this pension is properly funded. It's a matter of fulfilling a promise that's been made to these people.

And so it's one thing to have promises on paper. It's another thing to be able to fulfill those promises by providing that monthly check that they depend on.

So thank you so much for your leadership on this issue, and I look forward to working with you as we move forward in the process.

MR. GULLIFORD: I just want to add a

footnote. Representative Adkins has gone out of her way to assist us every way she could with respect to this big issue. And that is to the magnitude of the issue, I want you to think about one thing.

I spoke at Florida Taxwatch's annual meeting. As a matter of fact, Ted was there too. And they -- of course, our topic was, guess what? Pensions. And they were decrying the fact that throughout the State of Florida the unfunded pension liability is just over \$10 billion.

So I was able to announce to them that we made up 25 percent of that, or roughly. But there's not 25 percent of the population in the City of Jacksonville.

So if you want something to weigh it against, that's the -- that's the size of our problem.

With that, anyone else care to speak?

Ms. Boyer, I'm surprised -- Council Vice

President Boyer. I'm sorry.

Oh, by the way, the full report is on the city council web page probably by now. If it isn't up yet, it will be up very shortly. So you can access it there, the full context. And if

there's something else that we could provide by the way of copies of anything, we certainly would be willing to do that.

With that, any other questions?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: We know the council has already put forward some subpoenas, but there are a lot of recommendations, including going back to the governor, get the FBI involved.

In terms of the council, what is our next step here?

MR. GULLIFORD: Well, I think we might have a discussion about it at the next finance committee meeting and see how we might go forward. I think it's worth the discussion.

I know there's outstanding colleagues on the finance committee, some of whom are here with me today, and I'm sure that there will be some approach to -- some organized approach to pursuing some of the recommendations or all of the recommendations that have been advanced.

Anyone else before we --

Yeah, Mr. Gabriel, hiding out there? Can you give us any kind of update on the status -- they would like to know the status of the subpoenas. I think they've been drafted and -- I

1 don't know where we are. But this is General Counsel Jason Gabriel, 2 3 who has been a great asset for us and help. 4 MR. GABRIEL: Jason Gabriel, General 5 Counsel. As you can imagine, I'm going to be 6 circumspect about the status of the subpoenas. Ι 7 can tell you they have been drafted, they have been issued, and they're out there. And that's 8 all I can say about that at this time. 9 I'm sorry? 10 They have been issued? 11 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: They have been issued. 12 MR. GABRIEL: UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Who did you issue them 13 14 to? They have been issued pursuant 15 MR. GABRIEL: to the authority. The council has the authority 16 17 to issue the subpoenas. They have authorized the 18 council secretary to issue them. And as you know 19 and as you may recall from that action, it was on 20 the fund and the attorney, Mr. Klausner. 21 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Have they been served? I'm not going to answer that 22 MR. GABRIEL: 23 question at this point in time. Thank you. 24 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Counsel, Mr. Siedle

obviously recommends bringing this to the

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attention of all these other agencies.

Is there a plan to (inaudible) envelope and send them out? Do you plan to ask counsel -- if you agree with that, how are you going to get -- really, it's for Councilman Gulliford (inaudible)

MR. GULLIFORD: Are you going to answer it?

MR. GABRIEL: Well, I was just going to say, what we're going to do is review it, review every word on it, and then take it under advisement after that.

MR. GULLIFORD: Right. And we will -- we will look to them for guidance, obviously. But I think we've collectively -- and let me say something else that has happened and I want you-all to be aware of, because as I said earlier in the comments, you know, finger-pointing is not a solution. It doesn't get us anywhere. We've got a problem and we recognize it.

There is some potential for recovery. And we might say beyond even the fund itself, there is some potential for financial recovery because of the bad conduct of some of those who have advised in the past or consulted in the past, et cetera.

So I want everybody to be aware of that

possibility, but I also want you to be aware that the chairman of the Police and Fire Pension Fund has contacted me and wants to sit down, and I think we've already scheduled it, and have a meeting amongst ourselves.

I think it will be an open meeting. I would want nothing less than an open meeting, frankly, because I think he's talking about engaging the other trustees, and sit down with the council auditor, the general counsel, the folks from finance, Joey Greive and others with the administration, and let's talk about this thing. I mean, I think that's healthy.

We're past the stage of, as I said, pointing fingers. We need -- we need resolution and we need solutions and we need to move in the right direction. So that's going to be forthcoming.

Anything else?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: My name is (inaudible) citizen of Duval, Jacksonville. I just want to say how irritated and irate I am that this has been allowed to go on for so many years. I appreciate you, the council, and everyone else who has brought this to light.

In my opinion, the chairman, Mr. Keane -- I

think there should be legal recourse against the gentleman. He's (inaudible) and the things he's done, he's gotten away with. I will have an ax to burn, but I think legal action should be brought against this fund and its directors. And it's got to come to a stop to the citizens of Duval and Jacksonville. They're fed up with this abuse. There needs to be resolution.

MR. GULLIFORD: Sir, I can assure you that we will pursue every avenue as far as investigation and resolution. It's something that we take seriously, and it is a priority, especially for me, I think.

So with that, anybody else?

MR. SIEDLE: I just want to add one thing, that the United States Securities and Exchange Commission instituted a new whistle-blower program about two years ago pursuant to the Dodd-Frank reforms, which today any citizen can file this report with the SEC and ask for an SEC investigation.

So with respect to any other agency of government, any citizen can take this report and file it with that agency. So it's something to keep in mind.

In other jurisdictions where I've done 1 investigations, hundreds of people have filed the 2 3 reports with their state attorney generals and 4 with the FBI and others. 5 MR. GULLIFORD: Thank you. 6 Anyone else? You would have to end it, 7 wouldn't you? Last word. UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Is it still the 8 council's intention to go ahead and try to get a 9 settlement with Mr. Keane for his unauthorized 10 pension or --11 That was the directive of 12 MR. GULLIFORD: the legislation that was passed. I don't know 13 14 what the status is, but I would say that, yes, it 15 is at present --16 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: No changes --17 MR. GULLIFORD: -- have not heard anything 18 at all. I know that there's been some ongoing 19 discussions, negotiations or the like, and I'm not apprised of anything as to the results. 20 21 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: I was just curious in light of the -- this audit. 22 23 MR. GULLIFORD: I'm only one lowly 24 councilman amongst 19, you know, 18, others.

can't speak for all of them. So we'll see.

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1 quess it will be a matter of -- Ms. Boyer, I was 2 hoping. 3 COUNCILWOMAN BOYER: So I'm going to correct 4 that comment a little bit because I would not say that we authorized or directed -- we didn't 5 direct settlement. 6 7 What we directed and authorized was the filing of the lawsuit. And we said, as with any 8 lawsuit, the general counsel had the authority to 9 enter into negotiations for settlement. 10 Whether the information in this document 11 12 informs those negotiations remains to be seen. MR. GULLIFORD: Just like all the women in 13 my life correcting me on a regular basis. 14 Yeah, so with that, anyone else? 15 you-all for coming and thank you for your 16 interest in this very difficult time. 17 (The press conference ended.) 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

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17	DATED this 11th day of November, 2015, at
18	Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida.
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