



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEW YORK CITY PENSION BOARD PICKS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The New York City Employees' Retirement System (NYCERS) Board of Trustees has selected Melanie Whinnery to be its next Executive Director, culminating a national search by the NYCERS Board, assisted by search firm EFL Associates. Ms. Whinnery replaces Diane D'Alessandro, who retired at the end of 2016. Karen Mazza, NYCERS' Deputy Executive Director, has been serving as Interim Executive Director since D'Alessandro's retirement.

Ms. Whinnery is currently the Deputy Comptroller for the New York State and Local Retirement System (NYSLRS), also serving as the Chief Operating Officer, overseeing NYSLRS' management team and approximately 800 staff. NYSLRS serves more than 675,000 members and 3,000 municipal employers in addition to the State of New York. State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli serves as sole Trustee for NYSLRS.

NYCERS Chair John Adler, who represents **Mayor Bill de Blasio** on the Board, praised the selection, "Melanie Whinnery is an extremely talented and experienced pension professional who will help NYCERS maintain and improve its standard of excellence in serving the system's more than 300,000 active members and retirees. We are very excited to be hiring someone of her caliber to be NYCERS' Executive Director."

"The Board is extremely grateful to Karen Mazza for the outstanding job she has done as Interim Executive Director," Adler added.

Ms. Whinnery's appointment was hailed by several other NYCERS trustees:

"After a thorough search process, the Board of Trustees has selected a new Executive Director to manage NYCERS. We have full confidence that the hardworking members and beneficiaries of the City will be well served by Melanie Whinnery in leading NYCERS in providing exemplary services and care of their benefits," said **Public Advocate Letitia James**.

"I'm thrilled to welcome Melanie Whinnery to NYCERS. The skills and experiences she gained at the New York State and Local Retirement System will serve us well here in New York City," **New York City Comptroller Scott Stringer** said. "Ms. Whinnery's history of dedicated public service makes her an excellent addition to the team at NYCERS. Both I and the staff at the Comptroller's Office look forward to working with her for years to come."

"Ms. Whinnery's professional experience at NYSLERS will serve NYCERS well. Her skills and experience will propel NYCERS to a new level of excellence and service to its more than 300,000 members. New Yorkers thank Karen Mazza for her service as Interim Executive Director and we look forward to working with Ms. Whinnery," said **Queens Borough President Melinda Katz**.

"The management of New York City's pension system is no small task," said **Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.** "In Melanie Whinnery, the NYCERS Board has selected a competent individual with an exceptional background in municipal finance, and I congratulate her on this new undertaking. I look forward to working with her and my fellow NYCERS trustees as we continue to strengthen our city's public pension system."

NYCERS is a cost-sharing, multiple employer public employee retirement system that was founded by the New York State Legislature in 1920. NYCERS is the largest municipal public employee retirement system in the United States with more than 300,000 active members and retirees.

Aside from Adler, James, Stringer, Katz, and Diaz, Jr., NYCERS trustees include **Borough Presidents Gale Brewer (Manhattan), Eric Adams (Brooklyn), and James Oddo (Staten Island); Henry Garrido, Executive Director, District Council 37, AFSCME; John Samuelsen, President, Transport Workers Union Local 100; and Gregory Floyd, President, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Local 237.**