



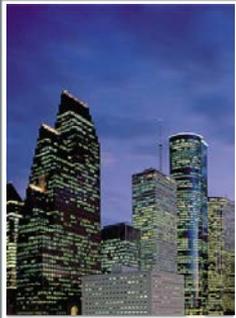
City of Houston

**Presentation to the  
State Pension Review Board of Texas**

**Sustainable City of Houston Pensions**

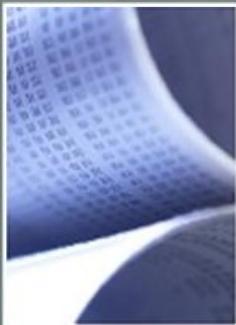
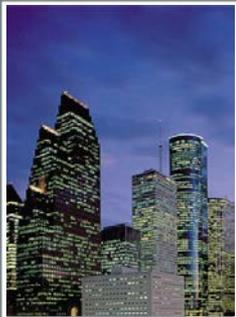
**January 26, 2017**

**Kelly Dowe, Chief Business Officer/Director of Finance  
City of Houston, Texas**



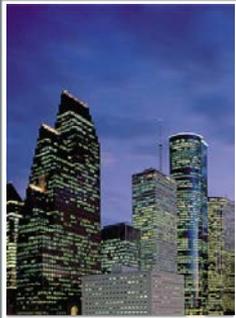
# Overview

- Background
  - Mayor's commitment: Fair, affordable and sustainable pensions
- Houston's plan
  - Be clear about what the City owes
  - Reduce liability
  - Manage costs going forward
- Cost management: The corridor
- Next steps



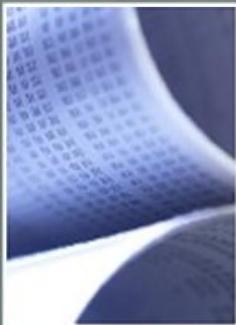
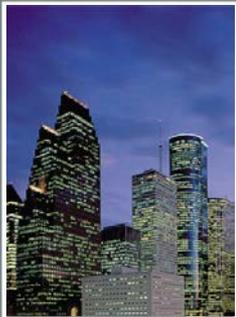
# Background

- Pension reform a priority for Mayor Turner
- Three objectives for now and in the future
  - Reduce costs
  - Reduce unfunded liability
  - Achieve a solution that removes pension issues from the table
- Employees, retirees and taxpayers deserve a pension system that is fair, affordable and sustainable
- Shared sacrifice is required to meet the objectives
- Nearly a year of working closely with pension system representatives



# Houston's Plan: What is owed?

- First step: Get a clearer look at what we owe
- Requires more accurate calculation of City's net pension liability
  - Reduce anticipated rate of return (i.e., discount rate) for all three systems to 7 percent
  - Recognize all investment and other actuarial gains and losses as of June 30, 2016
- Impact: Increase City's pension liability from \$5.6 billion to \$8.1 billion



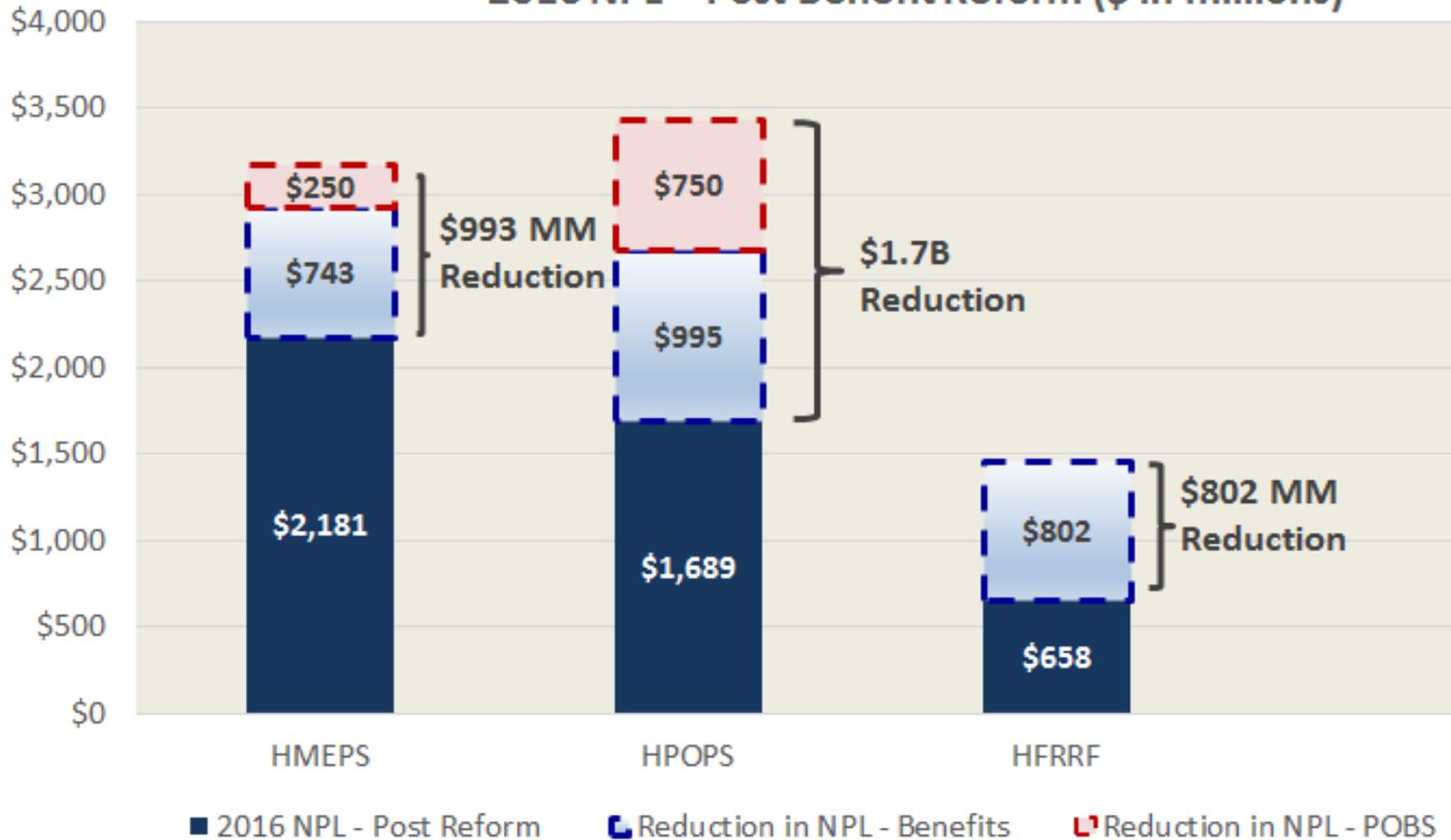
# Houston's Plan: Reduce liability

- Second step: Reduce the City's pension liability
  - Benefit adjustments in all three systems to reduce future costs: liability reduction of \$2.54 billion
  - City addresses past underfunding with issuance of \$1 billion in POBs
    - HMEPS (\$250 million) and HPOPS (\$750 million)
  - City required to make full annual contributions to each system: no more long-term underfunding
- Impact: Total immediate reduction in net pension liability of \$3.54 billion



# Houston's Plan: Reduce liability

2016 NPL – Post Benefit Reform (\$ in millions)



Sources: City of Houston January 2017 actuarial reports for HMEPS and HPOPS; COH-HFRRF term sheet.



# Houston's Plan: Manage costs

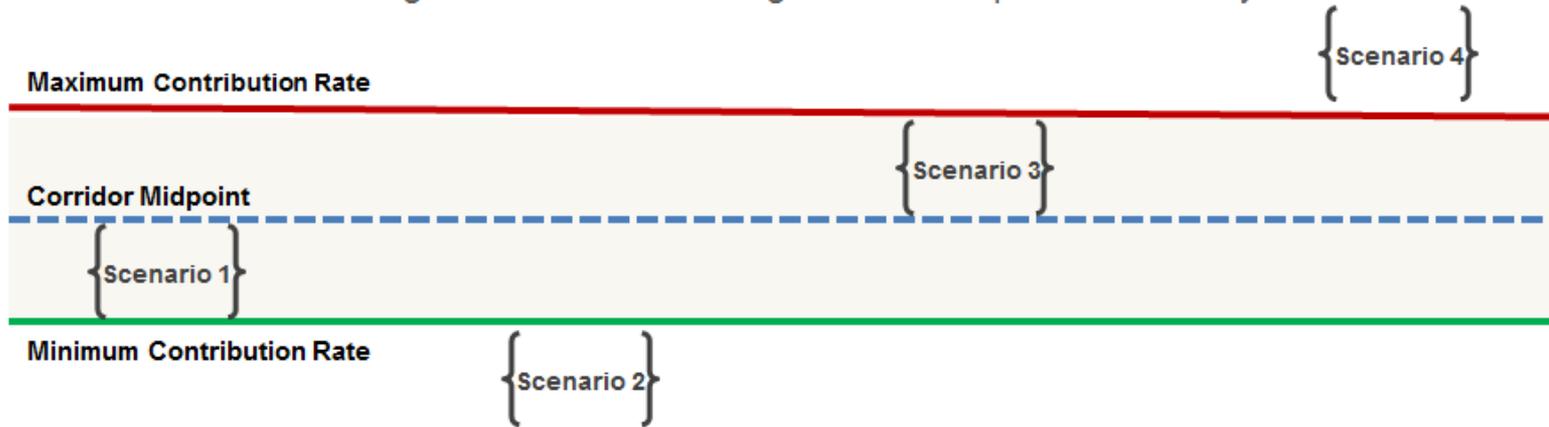
- Third step: Better management of pension costs and liability in the future
  - Closed 30-year amortization sets clear schedule and hard date for payoff: no more “kicking the can”
  - Corridor sets City contribution boundaries that trigger pension system changes if breached



# Houston's Plan: The corridor

## Overview of Risk Sharing

The Corridor is a cost management mechanism designed to ensure plan sustainability



Declining Pension Costs	
<p><b>Scenario 1:</b> Inside Corridor – between Midpoint and Minimum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>City Contribution Rate is in between Minimum and Midpoint</li> <li>If system &lt;90% funded, City contribution remains at midpoint</li> <li>Otherwise, City contributes at rate needed to fully fund the system</li> </ul>	<p><b>Scenario 2:</b> Outside Corridor – Below Minimum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>City Contribution Rate is below Minimum</li> <li>Bring City Contribution Rate back to Minimum by making system adjustments in order proscribed by law (e.g., recognize market losses if doing so increases contribution rate)</li> </ul>

Rising Pension Costs	
<p><b>Scenario 3:</b> Inside Corridor – between Midpoint and Maximum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>City Contribution Rate is in between the Midpoint and the Maximum</li> <li>City contributes at higher rate needed to fully fund the system</li> </ul>	<p><b>Scenario 4:</b> Outside Corridor – above Maximum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>City Contribution Rate is above the Maximum</li> <li>Move City contribution rate back within corridor with system adjustments (e.g., use prior overfunding)</li> <li>May also require benefit changes to bring contribution rate to Midpoint over a three year period</li> </ul>

**Corridor Midpoint = proposed benefits package estimated cost**





# Next steps

- Rep. Flynn has submitted agreed-upon legislative language and term sheets to Texas Legislative Council
- Coordinating with Senate sponsor Sen. Huffman
- Bill is to be presented as committee substitute for HB 43