

## **Candidates for Retired Representative to the Board of Trustees of the Police and Firemen's Retirement System of New Jersey**

*PFRSNJ requires candidates to provide biographical information to assist the voters, which is provided to and reproduced by an outside vendor for the use of this ballot. PFRSNJ does not verify the statements or the claims made by the candidates, and therefore, takes no position on and is not responsible for any information contained therein.*

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### **1. Bruce A. Polkowitz** (retired from the Edison Township Police Department)

After 29 plus years, Bruce retired in 2015 as a Captain from the Edison Police Department, eventually being named the Commander of Patrol.

Bruce was elected PBA/SOA President in 2008-2015. Previously serving as PBA Delegate, Bruce was the Founder/Creator of NJ's PBA Legal Protection Plan, protecting Law Enforcement in NJ, with over 25,000 plus members, one of the largest in the United States. Bruce held various positions in the PBA from 1990-2015 and led the majority of all negotiations during this time.

Bruce was elected to the Edison Township Board of Education. He served seven years, three as the President (1995-2001). With accountability for \$150 million-dollar budget, set all policy within the district to include curriculum, expenditures and agendas.

Bruce and his family moved to Hunterdon County. He was elected to the Franklin Township, Hunterdon County Board of Education for which he served three years (2004-2007).

Bruce was also elected and served as the Mayor of Franklin Township, Hunterdon County for three years. (2012-2014)

Bruce entered the United States Air Force after high school and received an Honorable Discharge after four years working as a K-9 narcotics handler.

Bruce went back to college receiving his BA in Sociology with a minor in Criminal Justice from Centenary College. Bruce continued to earn his Master's Degree in Human Resources Training and Development from Seton Hall University. (2007-2010)

Bruce is also a proud graduate of West Point Command and Leadership School.

In 2019, Bruce was elected to serve as a Trustee on the inaugural board of the New Jersey Police and Fireman's Retirement System, (NJPFRS) established legislatively to be independent of all other retirement systems in NJ. Bruce has been the Chairman of the Personnel Committee since 2019. This committee in conjunction with the Board and staff oversees all hiring for the PFRS.

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### **2. Stephen Trowbridge** (retired from the Jersey City Police Department)

I have a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Arts (graduating magna cum laude) in public administration from Fairleigh Dickinson University, where I was likewise certified to work in public management. Additionally, I have been licensed as a police instructor via the Jersey City Police and the New Jersey Police Training Commission. From 1986 to 1990, I served as a law enforcement specialist for the United States Air Force.

Following my departure from the military, I was employed as an Investigator for the Hudson County Superior Court and a Firefighter for the Bayonne Fire Department. Thereafter, I excelled as a Lieutenant and street crime Commander for the Jersey City Police Department from 1993 until 2018. After retiring, I was recruited to serve as the Director of Public Safety for the City University of New York City College of Technology, where I have excelled since 2018.

Well-respected in my field, I was presented with over 75 awards from federal, state, local and legislature authorities, and the Jersey City Police. Including commendations for Excellent Police Service, the World Trade Center Award, Combat Cross, the President's Award for Valor, and Supervisor of the Year, amongst several others. The 200 Club of Hudson County presented me with the Valiant Teamwork Award, and I was recognized as the Irish Policeman of the Year in 2018. Due to my extensive work in Hispanic communities, I was named Honorary Puerto Rican of the Year in 2017. Devoted to serving the community, I am a member of the National Association of Chiefs of Police, The F.O.P., New Jersey Retired Police and Fireman's Association, Narcotics Officer Association, the New Jersey Honor Legion, the Ancient Order of Hibernians, American Legion, Air Force Association, and Folds of Honor.

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### 3. **Rocco Montesano Jr.** (retired from West Orange Police Department)

Rocco Montesano retired from West Orange Police Department as a Sergeant in 2000 after 13 years (Ordinary Disability). A member of PBA local 25 Rocco worked Patrol, Detective Bureau and for 3 years was assigned to the Essex County Bureau Of Narcotics.

Rocco holds the following degrees:

- Bachelor of Science - Business Administration; Kean College.
- Masters Degree - Education; Seton Hall University
- Masters of Business Administration (MBA) - Finance and Marketing; Saint Peters University

For the last 22 years Rocco has been held critical national leadership roles in the Pharmaceutical / Biotechnology industry focusing on the commercialization of drugs with sales in the multi bil-lions.

With significant corporate experience Rocco hopes to bring a FRESH PERSPECTIVE to the board at a very critical time. His focus will include:

- COLA restoration is a priority. It must be done responsibly to ensure it is permanent. This will require a clearly defined process, specific ownership and accountability.
- Ensure that the complex transfer of the investment fund is conducted properly and efficient-ly
- Establish a process for due diligence on the funds investment choices risks / rewards/ longevity subsequent to fund transfer
- Member services; Improve access for retirees; wait times and responsiveness

Rocco is a proud second generation law enforcement officer who followed in his fathers foot-steps. Rocco's son, a NJ State Trooper is 3rd generation NJ Law enforcement.

Rocco and his wife Julie have three children (Gerard, Dante and Daniella) and three grandsons (Noa, Dante and August). They have been married 31 years and reside in Sparta, NJ.

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