



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Contact: Mayor's Office of Communications, mayorspressoffice@sfgov.org

***** PRESS RELEASE *****

**MAYOR LONDON BREED AND RETIREMENT BOARD
PRESIDENT AHSHA SAFAI ANNOUNCE ALISON ROMANO
TO LEAD SAN FRANCISCO EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT
SYSTEM**

Romano to replace Jay Huish as Chief Executive Officer and Chief Investment Officer following extensive national search

San Francisco, CA — Today, Mayor London N. Breed and San Francisco Retirement Board President and District 11 Supervisor Ahsha Safai announced that Alison Romano will serve as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Chief Investment Officer (CIO) of the San Francisco Employees' Retirement System (SFERS). Romano, who will replace acting Executive Director Jay Huish, was selected from a pool of highly qualified candidates following a national search.

Romano will oversee the administration and investment of San Francisco's \$35 billion pension plan which provides retirement security for over 75,000 active and retired City employees.

"I am pleased to have Alison Romano and her extensive experience leading our city's Employees' Retirement System," said Mayor Breed. "This department has made tremendous progress under Jay Huish's leadership, including reporting record returns in the City pension system, and I look forward to seeing Alison build on that work."

Alison Romano is currently Deputy Chief Investment Officer for the Florida State Board of Administration, where she has worked for the past 13 years. As Deputy Chief Investment Officer, she is responsible for strategic leadership and investment oversight across all asset classes of the State's \$200 billion pension fund and the \$15 billion defined contribution program. Previously, she held positions at Goldman Sachs, last serving as Vice President of the Investment Banking Division, Healthcare.

1 DR. CARLTON B. GOODLETT PLACE, ROOM 200

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94102-4681

TELEPHONE: (415) 554-6141



“I am proud to announce Alison Romano will serve as Chief Executive Officer and Chief Investment Officer to continue the great work that Jay Huish has accomplished at SFERS,” said Ahsha Safai, Board President of the San Francisco Employees’ Retirement System, “After an exhaustive nationwide search and recruitment process, Alison demonstrated that she was the most qualified to take on the CEO and CIO position.”

“Alison’s extensive finance and investment experience along with her passion for public service will serve her well leading our retirement system and is what our system was looking for in our search. We are excited to have her join the SFERS team and look forward to her energy, vision, and leadership to build upon the many successes at the system and maintain SFERS’ position as a leader in the public fund sector,” said Scott Heldfond, Retirement Board Vice President, and Search Committee Chair.

“I am honored by this opportunity to work on behalf of the members of SFERS. Over the last 13 years at the Florida SBA, I have enjoyed investing and managing retirement assets for the benefit of those who have dedicated their lives to public service. I now look forward to returning to San Francisco, a city I was proud to call home at the beginning of my career. I am thrilled to join and lead an innovative and forward-looking team at SFERS that has delivered nationally recognized investment performance on behalf of their members,” said Alison Romano.

Ms. Romano graduated Summa Cum Laude from the University of Pennsylvania, earning a Bachelor of Science in Economics from the Wharton School and a Bachelor of Science in Engineering.

During his time as Executive Director of SFERS, Jay Huish oversaw the day-to-day activities of SFERS, working collaboratively with his team to serve City workers. Huish recently announced his retirement after serving the department since 1999.

“Jay leaves the system in a much better place than when he came in and has built a cohesive team. We are thankful for his leadership during some challenging economic times and the global pandemic. He delivered on many key objectives during his tenure, the most significant was strengthening the system’s financial position. His leadership during the global pandemic ensured service to our members was uninterrupted during such uncertain times,” said Retirement Board President Ahsha Safai.

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