

# QUARTERLY REPORT

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**June 30, 2017**

Shown below is the quarterly report on the status of the Montgomery County Consolidated Retiree Health Benefits Trust ("CRHBT") for the quarter ending June 30, 2017. This quarterly report is designed to assist you in understanding the current status of the CRHBT.

## ***History***

The Consolidated Retiree Health Benefits Trust was established in 2008 as a Section 115 Trust to provide funding for retiree health benefits for retirees and their dependents of Montgomery County and other agencies or political subdivisions who elect to participate.

## ***Participating Agencies and Other Trust Participants***

Participating agencies include Montgomery County Government, Revenue Authority, Credit Union, Department of Assessment & Tax, Strathmore Hall Foundation, Housing and Opportunity Commission, Washington Suburban Transit Commission, and Village of Friendship Heights. Beginning in June 2012, funding for retiree health benefits for Montgomery County Public Schools ("MCPS") and Montgomery College were also contributed to the CRHBT.

## ***Board of Trustees***

The Board of Trustees consists of 19 members: The Montgomery County Directors of Management and Budget, Finance, and Human Resources; the Council Administrator; a Police Bargaining Unit Representative; a Fire & Rescue Bargaining Unit Representative; an Office, Professional, and Technical (OPT) and Service, Labor and Trades (SLT) Bargaining Unit Representative; a Non-Bargaining Unit Representative; a Retired Employees Representative; two persons recommended by the Council who are knowledgeable in pensions, investments, or financial matters; two individuals knowledgeable in pensions, investments, or financial matters appointed by the County Executive; three members nominated by the Montgomery County Board of Education including a designee of the Superintendent, a Bargaining Unit Representative and retiree of MCPS; and 3 members nominated by the Board of Trustees of Montgomery College including a designee of the President, a Bargaining Unit Representative, and a retiree of Montgomery College.

## ***Performance Results***

The total return for the quarter was a gain of 3.47%, 95 basis points (bps) ahead of the 2.52% gain recorded by the policy benchmark. For the one year ending June 30, 2017, the gain of 12.34% was 247 bps ahead of the 9.87% gain recorded by the policy benchmark. The one-year gross return places the CRHBT's performance slightly below the top quartile of the universe of comparable funds constructed by the Board's consultant, Wilshire Associates. Our annualized performance of 4.39% for the three-year period and 7.93% for the five-year period each ranked at the median of the universe.

The total market value of trust assets at June 30, 2017 was \$845.9 million. The CRHBT's asset allocation was: Domestic Equities 23.2%, International Equities 19.1%, Global Equities 4.2%, Fixed Income 25.1%, Inflation Linked Bonds 8.1%, Public Real Assets 8.6%, Hedge Funds 2.0%, Private Real Assets 2.4%, Private Equity 4.3%, Private Debt 0.3%, and 2.7% Cash.

## ***Major Initiatives/Changes***

During the quarter, the following commitments were made: \$3 million to 2017 Franklin Park International Series, a private equity fund-of-funds, \$3 million to Franklin Park's 2017 Venture Series, a private equity fund-of-funds, and \$6 million to BV Investment Partners, a private equity fund.

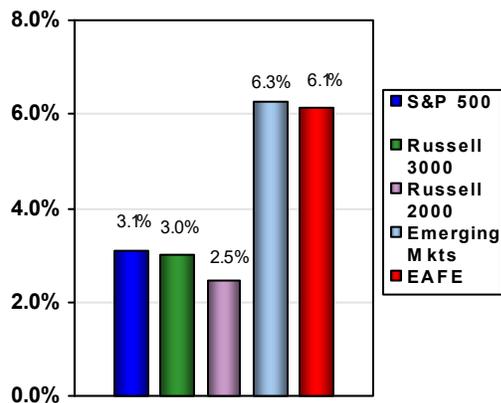
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## Capital Markets and Economic Conditions

Economic data reflected that the GDP increased at an annualized 2.6% rate in the second quarter of 2017, matching market expectations. This reflects the 96<sup>th</sup> month of growth since the Great Recession and marks the third-longest economic expansion in U.S. history. GDP growth reflected increases in both consumer spending on goods and services as well as increases in business investment, exports, and federal government spending. Consumer spending was led by increases in housing and utilities, health care, recreational goods and vehicles. Business spending benefited from increases in structures, equipment, and intellectual property products. The 8.2% increase in equipment spending was the fastest in nearly two years and the third straight quarterly increase. In contrast, residential fixed investment declined and both exports and nonresidential fixed investment slowed. The 6.8% decline in investment on homebuilding was the worst decline in seven years. Meanwhile, auto production declined for a third straight quarter. Wage growth decelerated to 0.5% in the second quarter versus 0.8% in the first quarter, despite an unemployment rate that averaged 4.4% during the second quarter, which was not seen since pre-crisis 2007. CPI was subdued in the second quarter, with the price index excluding food and energy increasing at a 0.9% rate, which was the slowest rise in more than two years following a 1.8% increase in the first quarter.

**Public Equity Markets:** U.S. equities continued their strong performance in Q2, advancing to all-time highs as the market was supported by positive economic reports as well as a solid corporate earnings season. The benign global economic conditions remained supportive for equities, resulting in exceedingly low volatility. The weakening U.S. Dollar created a more favorable environment for growth and large cap equities as these companies tend to be more exposed to international markets. U.S. markets were led

Index Return Qtr - 6/30/17



by Health Care, Industrials, Financials, and Technology while Energy and Telecom experienced losses. Health Care stocks posted robust gains in Q2 as the Senate proposed an industry-friendly plan to reform the U.S. Health Care system. Additionally, over 80% of Health Care stocks beat earnings estimates. Telecom was the worst performing sector due to weak top-line growth of the two largest telecom providers, AT&T and Verizon. Our combined domestic equity performance was a gain of 3.33%, outperforming the 3.02% gain of the Russell 3000 Index. Manager selection was positive but our overweight to small cap negatively impacted performance

International and domestic equity markets maintained their momentum relative to U.S. markets as the trade-weighted U.S. Dollar Index dropped by 1.5% during Q2. France was the strongest performer for the quarter as markets were relieved by Emmanuel Macron's victory over Marine Le Pen

in the presidential election. Within developed markets, Europe outperformed Asia as France, Switzerland, Spain, and the UK delivered strong performance. Japan performed well but weakness in the natural resources sectors proved a headwind for Australia. Much like their U.S. counterparts, the top performing sectors were Health Care, Industrials, Technology, and Financials while the worst performing sectors were Energy and Telecom. Emerging markets generated gains during the quarter led by China, which saw large technology companies like Tencent and Alibaba post returns north of 20%. Russia and Brazil suffered losses during the quarter due to weakness in the commodity sectors. Our combined international equity performance was a gain of 7.36%, outperforming the 5.81% gain recorded by the benchmark index. Our global equity allocation returned 6.19%, outperforming the 4.27% gain of the MSCI ACWI benchmark.

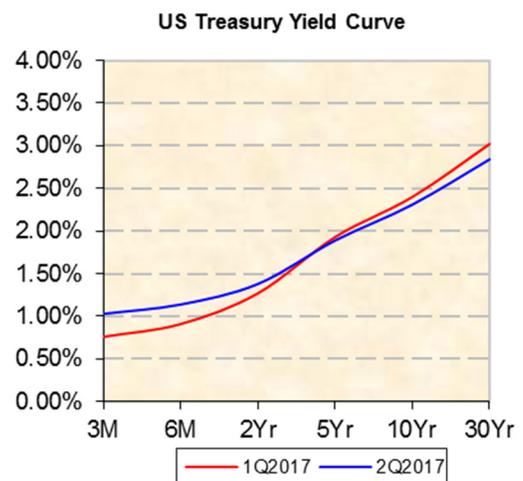
**Private Equity:** Buyout funds raised \$88 billion which was the largest amount of any second quarter in the last five years. The aggregate value of buyout deals was higher for North America and Asia while Europe and the rest of the World saw declining values versus the previous quarter. Four of the five largest buyout deals of Q2 2017 were for companies in North America – the largest transaction was the public-to-private acquisition of Staples. There was a 9% decline in exit activity versus the previous quarter, totaling 381 exits for an aggregate of \$59B, representing the lowest quarterly number since Q2 2010. The downward trend of PE exits is driven by the cyclical nature of the industry and a return to normalcy (e.g. after the M&A activity reached a record level in 2016 by strategic acquirers). Venture funds have seen the lowest number

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of funds (92) closed since 2013, as well as the smallest amount (\$16B) of capital raised in the last three years. The North America focused venture capital fundraising accounted for 74% of capital raised during the quarter. The aggregate value of venture deals (\$47B) in the quarter was 26% higher (a five-year high) than the previous quarter. Meanwhile the number of venture capital deals (936) in North America fell for the eighth consecutive quarter, the lowest number since 2009. Venture capital exit activity continued to gradually decline from historical levels as companies stayed private longer due to favorable late-stage capital availability. During the quarter, our private equity managers called a combined \$6.4 million and paid distributions of \$0.8 million. Our current allocation to private equity is 4.3%, with a market value of \$36.3 million. From its 2013 inception through March 31, 2017, the private equity program has generated a net internal rate of return of 16.1% versus a 14.7% return for the dollar-weighted public market equivalent (the Russell 3000 Index plus 300 bps).

**Hedge Funds:** Hedge funds, as measured by the HFRI Fund Weighted Composite Index, gained 1.05% in the second quarter. The hedge fund portfolio returned a loss of 4.62% in the quarter, underperforming the HFRI Macro Index benchmark which declined by 0.63%

**Fixed Income:** The yield curve flattened during the quarter, as the Fed raised short-term rates by another 25 bps, citing the relatively steady growth of the economy and the desire to return to normalized interest rate levels. However, the long end of the yield curve declined, as inflation remained persistently low and below the Fed's target of 2%. Long-term yields also reversed after a sharp rise in Q4 2016, as prospects for tax reform, deregulation, and fiscal stimulus by the new administration have subsequently faded. The yield on the 30-year bond decreased by 18 bps during the quarter, and ended the period at 2.84%. The spread between 2-year and 10-year Treasuries, the main gauge of the yield curve, narrowed by 20 bps to 93 bps. For the quarter, the 2-year Treasury yield ended at 1.38%, up by 11 bps from the prior period, while the 10-year Treasury yield moved down by 9 bps to 2.31%. For the quarter, the Merrill Lynch High Yield II Constrained Index rose by 2.14%, the Barclays Aggregate was up 1.45%, and the Barclays Long Govt/Credit Index recorded a gain of 4.39%. The fixed income performance for the quarter was a gain of 3.22%, trailing the custom benchmark by 13 bps. The Treasury Inflation-linked bonds (TIPS) portfolio recorded a gain of 0.27% for the quarter, 67 bps above the 0.40% loss reported by the benchmark.



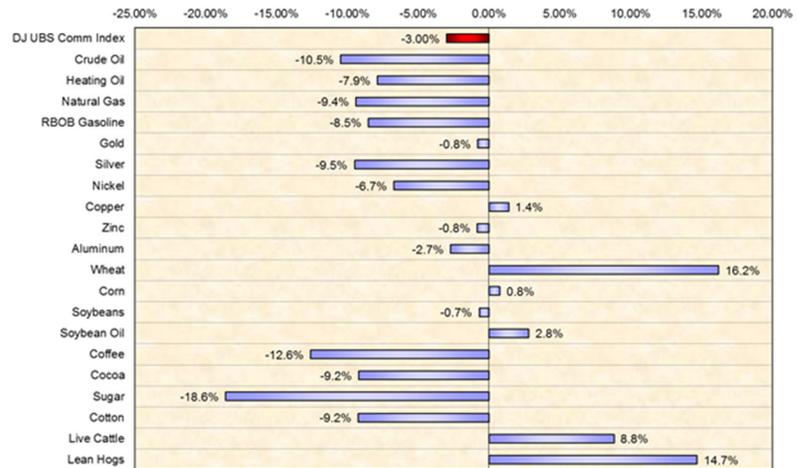
**Private Debt:** Private debt fundraising in the second quarter saw 28 funds reach a final close, securing a total of \$16 billion in capital commitments from investors. This was a slight reduction in the pacing of recent fundraising activity, as quarterly fundraising since 2013 has seen an average of 37 funds close on \$22 billion in aggregate capital. Direct lending and distressed debt vehicles made up 75% of the of capital secured by private debt funds during the second quarter, closing on \$6.4 billion and \$5.5 billion, respectively. Of the 28 funds who reached a final close, 19 of them are North American focused. During the quarter, our private debt managers called a combined \$0.5 million and paid distributions of \$1.1 million. Our current allocation to private debt is 0.33%, with a market value of \$2.8 million. Due to the young age of the portfolio, performance data is not relevant.

**Private Real Assets:** U.S. real estate returns have continued to remain stable and modest. The NCREIF Property Index (NPI), a measure of private commercial real estate properties in the U.S., gained 1.8% in the second quarter 2017, up from 1.6% last quarter, but below the 2.0% returned in the same quarter a year ago. The 1.8% total return consisted of a 1.2% income component and 0.6% appreciation. The Industrial sector continues to lead performance by property type with total returns of 3.1% in the second quarter. Apartments had the lowest return at 1.5% reflecting the lowest income return across property types at 1.1%. Within the upstream oil and gas sector, there was a significant drop in total upstream M&A spending due to a lack of transactions in the Permian Basin during the quarter as investors focused on cheaper basins. During the quarter, our private real assets managers called a combined \$2.5 million and paid distributions of \$0.3 million. Our current allocation to private real assets is 2.4%, with a market value of \$20.2 million. Due to the young age of the portfolio, performance data is not relevant.

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**Public Real Assets:** The Bloomberg Commodity Index fell 3.0% as weakness in the energy markets offset gains in grains and livestock sectors. Energy prices declined due to an increasing U.S. rig count, rising U.S. output and recovering production from Libya and Nigeria. Grain prices rallied as the result of adverse weather conditions in key global producing regions. Industrial metals were unchanged, except for nickel, which declined due to a relaxation of the Indonesian export ban. Precious metals declined due to an increase in the U.S. federal funds target rate and waning demand. Livestock advanced on strong demand for meat and resumption of beef exports to China.

Quarterly Commodity Performance



Global listed real estate securities as measured by the FTSE EPRA/NAREIT Developed Index advanced 2.7% led by the strong performance of Germany, Sweden, France, Netherlands and the UK. Following the elections in France, the risk of rising populism in continental Europe has eased and improving economic conditions are reflected in higher office occupancy levels in major European cities. U.S. retail REITs lagged as investors have been wary of store-closings and negative sentiment around brick and mortar retail sales relative to e-commerce. Returns in Japan were below average as JREITs were hurt by investment fund outflows.

Master Limited Partnerships (MLPs), as measured by the Alerian MLP Total Return Index, declined 6.4% as lower petroleum prices are negatively impacting investor sentiment and MLP prices.

For the quarter, the public real asset portfolio declined 0.32%, underperforming the custom benchmark by 18 bps due to underperformance by the active managers.

## Outlook

The Federal Reserve increased the federal funds rate to 1.0% from 0.75% at their June meeting, representing the second rate increase in 2017 and the fourth rate increase since the financial crisis. The Fed also provided guidance on how it plans to unwind its \$4.5 trillion balance sheet, which has expanded significantly since 2008 and includes treasuries, mortgage-backed securities, and government agency debt. They indicated that they would begin allowing \$6B per month of maturing treasuries to run off their balance sheet without reinvesting and that this level will increase by \$6B per quarter until reaching a level of \$30B per month. For agency and mortgage debt, they will allow \$4B per month to run off initially until allowing it to reach \$20B per month. The Fed's growth expectations increased slightly since March, increasing from 2.1% to 2.2%. Inflation expectations have decreased as the Fed is now projecting a 1.6%-1.7% increase, which is down from the 1.8%-1.9% forecast in March. The 10-year breakeven inflation rate also decreased by roughly 25bps during the quarter.

In June, the Bank of England (BOE) kept its benchmark interest rate unchanged at 0.25% but the market was surprised that 3 BOE officials called for higher interest rates. These officials have become concerned with increasing levels of inflation as the Brexit vote has weakened the pound, increasing import prices. Real GDP growth has also decreased during the year due to weak consumer spending as well as higher than expected inflation. The European Central Bank (ECB) left its benchmark interest rate unchanged at 0% during their June meeting, which was expected by market participants. ECB President, Mario Draghi, also indicated that he expects rates to remain at 0.0% into their foreseeable future but that the ECB would be ready to extend their quantitative easing program if needed. The Bank of Japan (BOJ) kept its benchmark rate unchanged at -0.1% as inflation expectations decreased from 1.4% to 1.1%.

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The domestic economy is likely to continue to grow at a moderate pace in the 2.0-2.5% over the remainder of 2018.

Sources: Bloomberg, Northern Trust, MSCI, S&P, T. Rowe Price, FRM, Wilshire Associates, Bridgewater, JP Morgan, BlackRock, Eagle, Gryphon, PE Hub, Private Equity Analyst, Pitchbook, Real Capital Analytics, RE Alert, Schroder, Oil & Gas Investor, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, PwC Deals, NCREIF.

### Risk Profile

The risk/return statistics for the CRHBT for the 1, 3 and 5 year periods ending June 30, 2017 are shown below:

	1 Year				
	Total Return	Risk	Sharpe Ratio	Sortino Ratio	Return/Risk
CRHBT - Net of Fees	11.94	4.34	2.53	2.98	2.75
CRHBT Benchmark	9.86	3.31	2.70	3.28	2.98

	3 Year				
	Total Return	Risk	Sharpe Ratio	Sortino Ratio	Return/Risk
CRHBT - Net of Fees	4.00	6.16	0.56	0.69	0.65
CRHBT Benchmark	3.94	5.76	0.59	0.70	0.68

	5 Year				
	Total Return	Risk	Sharpe Ratio	Sortino Ratio	Return/Risk
CRHBT - Net of Fees	7.61	5.95	1.20	1.44	1.28
CRHBT Benchmark	7.48	5.72	1.24	1.47	1.31

### Participating Agency Allocation

Agency	3/31/2017		3/31/2017 - 6/30/2017			6/30/2017	
	Balance \$	Balance %	Contributions	Expenses	Investment Gain/Loss	Balance \$	Balance %
Montgomery County Govt	\$364,117,141	47.64%	\$41,648,845	(\$553,244)	\$14,782,196	\$419,994,938	48.88%
MontCo Revenue Authority	\$2,414,081	0.32%	\$44,325	(\$3,594)	\$97,088	\$2,551,900	0.30%
Strathmore Hall Foundation	\$1,119,884	0.15%	\$24,350	(\$1,669)	\$44,937	\$1,187,502	0.14%
Credit Union	\$1,007,873	0.13%	\$19,725	(\$1,501)	\$40,501	\$1,066,598	0.12%
Dept of Assessments & Tax	\$11,699	0.00%	\$0	(\$17)	\$476	\$12,158	0.00%
District Court of Maryland	\$0	0.00%	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
HOC	\$12,871,836	1.68%	\$282,600	(\$19,189)	\$516,431	\$13,651,677	1.59%
WSTC	\$89,987	0.01%	\$2,150	(\$134)	\$3,606	\$95,609	0.01%
Village of Friendship Heights	\$304,790	0.04%	\$6,050	(\$454)	\$12,246	\$322,632	0.04%
Montg. Cty. Public Schools	\$335,915,208	43.95%	\$23,903,334	(\$473,596)	\$11,934,335	\$371,279,280	43.21%
Montgomery College	\$46,417,517	6.07%	\$1,016,000	(\$64,368)	\$1,664,010	\$49,033,159	5.71%
<b>Total Trust Assets</b>	<b>\$764,270,017</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$66,947,379</b>	<b>(\$1,117,768)</b>	<b>\$29,095,825</b>	<b>\$859,195,453</b>	<b>100.00%</b>