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March 3, 2017

City Of Fort Pierce Retirement Board
100 North U.S. One
P.O. Box 1480
Fort Pierce, FL 34954-1480



Subject: Consideration of COLA request

Please accept this letter as a formal request for the consideration of a Cost of Living Adjustment for retirees from the City of Fort Pierce. Referring to Sec. 13-43. Cost of living adjustment pertaining to COLA.

On November 4, 2005, I officially retired from the City of Fort Pierce, which has approximately been 11+ years. During this period of time, retirees have not received any cost of living increases.

Therefore, I would like to make an official appeal to the board to request the actuary to investigate and consider an increase adjustment in pensions of retired members annually, which would reflect the change in the cost of living as measured by the Consumer Price Index.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Gary M. Ferch".

Gary M. Ferch

attachment

Sec. 13-42. Police officer coverage plan; applicability; credited service and/or age and credited service requirements for normal retirement; amount of normal retirement annuity; member contribution rate.

(a) The police officer coverage plan is applicable to all members who are a police officer employed by the city.

(b) The credited service and/or age and credited service requirement for normal retirement are:

- (1) Twenty-five (25) or more years of credited service; or
- (2) Age fifty-five (55) years or older and five (5) or more years of credited service.

(c) The amount of a normal retirement annuity under the standard form of payment is two and one-half (2.50) per cent of the member's final average salary times the member's credited service, not to exceed the applicable maximum set forth in sections 13-31 and 13-64.

(d) The member contribution rate shall be the following per cent of compensation:

- (1) Five and sixteen one-hundredths (5.16) per cent for police officers employed by the city who are subject to collective bargaining;
- (2) Five and sixteen one-hundredths (5.16) per cent for police officers employed by the city who are not subject to collective bargaining.

(e) The credited service requirement for vested termination of membership is five (5) years. A vested former member may make application for benefit commencement on or after attainment of age sixty (60) years.

(Ord. No. J-137, § 1, 1-3-95; Ord. No. J-197, §§ 2, 4, 8-5-96; Ord. No. J-205, §§ 1, 2, 11-5-96; Ord. No. J-309, § 8, 5-5-97; Ord. No. K-146, § 4, 3-18-02; Ord. No. K-166, § 1, 2, 10-21-02)

Editor's note—Sections 1 and 2 of Ordinance J-205 adopted November 5, 1996, amended subsection 13-42(c). Section 4 of Ordinance No. J-205 provided for said subsection to become effective October 1, 1997.

Sec. 13-43. Cost of living adjustment pertaining to COLA.

The board may, but is not required, with the advice of the plan's actuary, to adjust the pensions of retired members annually to reflect the change in the cost of living as measured by the Consumer Price Index or such other index approved by the board, provided that such adjustments may only be made from investment return of the fund in excess of that required to satisfy the actuarial interest assumption used in the most recent actuarial valuation of the plan. The adjustment shall be subject to a maximum in any plan year of three (3) per cent of the current benefit amount. The cumulative value of any cost of living adjustments granted pursuant to this section shall not be greater than the cumulative net actuarial gains and losses incurred after the effective date of this section. The procedures and methods to be followed in the determination of any adjustments shall be established from time to time by the board.

(Ord. No. J-505, § 1, 5-17-99)

Cost-Of-Living Adjustments

Automatic Determinations COLA determination SSI payment rates increase with COLA

Since 1975, Social Security general benefit increases have been cost-of-living adjustments or COLAs. The 1975-82 COLAs were effective with Social Security benefits payable for June in each of those years; thereafter COLAs have been effective with benefits payable for December.

Prior to 1975, Social Security benefit increases were set by legislation.

Social Security Cost-Of-Living Adjustments

<u>Year</u>	<u>COLA</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>COLA</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>COLA</u>
1975	8.0	1990	5.4	2005	4.1
1976	6.4	1991	3.7	2006	3.3
1977	5.9	1992	3.0	2007	2.3
1978	6.5	1993	2.6	2008	5.8
1979	9.9	1994	2.8	2009	0.0
1980	14.3	1995	2.6	2010	0.0
1981	11.2	1996	2.9	2011	3.6
1982	7.4	1997	2.1	2012	1.7
1983	3.5	1998	1.3	2013	1.5
1984	3.5	1999 ^a	2.5	2014	1.7
1985	3.1	2000	3.5	2015	0.0
1986	1.3	2001	2.6	2016	0.3
1987	4.2	2002	1.4		
1988	4.0	2003	2.1		
1989	4.7	2004	2.7		

^a The COLA for December 1999 was originally determined as 2.4 percent based on CPIs published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Pursuant to Public Law 106-554, however, this COLA is effectively now 2.5 percent.

The first COLA, for June 1975, was based on the increase in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) from the second quarter of 1974 to the first quarter of 1975. The 1976-83 COLAs were based on increases in the CPI-W from the first quarter of the prior year to the corresponding quarter of the current year in which the COLA became effective. After 1983, COLAs have been based on increases in the CPI-W from the third quarter of the prior year to the corresponding quarter of the current year in which the COLA became effective.

SSI COLAs

COLAs for the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program are generally the same as those for the Social Security program. However, COLAs for SSI have generally been effective for the month following the effective month of Social Security benefit increases. See SSI historical payment standards for more detail.