

I am writing to ask you to strongly consider changing Dispatchers from the GENERAL retirement fund to the CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS fund.

As a 27 year veteran of the 911 Dispatching profession, I can tell you this is not a job that can be performed *well* up until our current retirement age 65 years old! I have seen so many changes in my twenty-seven years and although technology wise things have improved greatly, there has been far more changes that have negatively changed this profession. Crime is up, call volume is up, with the movement of "See something, say something" we are answering thousands of calls more than we ever have, all while short-staffed.

The dispatch profession has always been a revolving door of employees. Many people may apply, but this is a job only a select group of people can do and sadly, working short-staffed with mandatory overtime has become the norm.

I don't think I need to tell you the details of some of the most horrific calls we take and the stress it creates. From a physical and very personal point of view, I can tell you my body and mind have suffered greatly. Looking back on my career, I often ask myself WHY? Why do I stay? Why do I put up with the effects of the cumulative stress? I am obese, on anti-anxiety medications, currently take the highest dosage of anti-depression meds my doctor will allow and drink far more alcohol than I would like to admit on my days off. I have constant neck and shoulder pain, hearing loss as well as other medical issues. I know for a FACT that many of my partners have similar issues, but I may be the only one brave enough to call it to your attention. The stress of this job and what it does to the mind and body are very real.

My personality has changed as well. I used to be out-going and loved to hang around people. I guarantee this job and the stress of it has caused me to become an introvert and cherish quiet time, alone, far more than I ever did. When I get off work, or on my days off, I don't like to go out and socialize, I hate to talk on the phone and have learned to crave silence.

I'm slowing down and I know the younger dispatchers can do things much faster than I can. I rely on my knowledge, years of service and street smarts to be a co-worker that the younger generation can come to. The mindset of the younger people is different too. I was just talking to HR yesterday and

mentioned, that in my opinion, the young adults that are being hired now don't consider this a career job. So many use it for a stepping stone to becoming a law enforcement officer or other things. I don't think very many people at the bottom of our seniority list will be here for the long haul of a 20-30 year career. For those of us that have dedicated our life to making this our career, it sure would be nice to be granted the opportunity to retire early.

I am more than happy to speak with any one of you if you need more information or want an inside look at what we do on a daily basis.

Thank you for your time

Signature redacted