



Saint Paul Firefighters IAFF Local 21

Mike Smith, President

Saint Paul Police Federation

Mark Ross, President

Monday, April 01, 2024

Honorable Dan Wolgamott
401 State Office Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Honorable Nick A. Frentz
95 University Avenue W
Minnesota Senate Building
Room 3109
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Representative Wolgamott and Senator Frentz,

We write to you jointly as the labor leadership representing approximately 1,000 active firefighters and police officers working for the City of Saint Paul. We are reaching out to inform you that our members strongly support the legislation you have put forth to modestly increase the post-retirement adjustment (COLA) for retired members of the PERA Police & Fire Plan as well reduce the current COLA waiting period from three years to one year (HF 4666 and SF 4878.)

On March 14th, the PERA Board of Directors historically moved to support this legislation with a 9-1 approval vote. This solidifies how necessary and widely supported this legislation is for our retired members. Understandably, passing this legislation at the cost \$40 million is a substantial monetary commitment. However, our members are suffering significant economic loss and purchasing power of their earned pensions with each year this inequity continues. Members of the PERA Police & Fire Plan have long advocated for shared sacrifice as well as benefit to keep our plan healthy for all members; including in 2018, when high pension costs risked the state's credit rating, we agreed to the shared sacrifice urged by fund administrators. Now, thankfully with better days financially, we are asking to share in the state's surplus.

Thank you for your leadership and support of authoring this vital legislation. Our retired members served honorably in public safety throughout their long careers receiving modest financial compensation with the understanding that their pension would support them in retirement. We know how difficult budgetary matters can be but we need to take care of our retired members who devoted their careers to taking care of their fellow Minnesotans.

Please let us know how we may assist you in any way to build support and pass the Police & Fire Pension Fairness Law of 2024 into law.

Respectfully submitted,

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