



MICHAEL G. LUTZ LODGE #5 PHILADELPHIA FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

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John J. McNesby, President

James P. Wheeler, Recording Secretary

March 18, 2009

Dear Council Member,

I am writing to you in regard to two City Council Bills, # 090187 and # 090188 both introduced by Councilwomen Tasco.

The above bills will affect the interest rate applied to the DROP Plan and will change the rules governing when the city can make deposits to the Pension Adjustment Fund. In Addition, these bills will waste money on a political "contest" to conduct a study which has ALREADY been conducted by the city actuary.

The Fraternal Order of Police is asking Council to use the utmost caution dealing with the bills offered by the Mayor.

We had hoped that the questions that have been floated by the administration concerning the Pension Fund would not become a political football.

Now, we have two bills presented to Council without the slightest warning or notification to the Fraternal Order of Police or any City Union. In fact there has not been an attempt to sit down with the unions to work together, as we agreed upon earlier at the pension board itself, on a solution.

It seems government at all levels make decisions that harm those who need the benefit the most, our long term retirees and those on disability. The dismantling of the DROP program which was voted into law by this City Council in 1999 and again in 2007 unanimously made a wise decision, the need for a DROP program has not changed since then.

The proponents of the Bill have a heavy burden and huge responsibility if they are going to interfere in the current system. We advocate that those affected employees not be forgotten. In the apparent wish to help the city we must remember that not one city employee caused this complicated situation. Please direct your attention to the employees so that they will not be the unfortunate casualty in the effort to solve the city's economic challenges.

Please do not respond to this letter with a letter giving me your views, I want you to know our view and ideally a NO vote on Bills #090187 and #090188.

Respectfully,

John J. McNesby, President
Philadelphia, Lodge #5
Fraternal Order of Police

JJM/aem

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