



Legislation Text

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City of Annapolis Police and Fire Retirement Plan - For the purpose of amending Appendix C of the Police and Fire Retirement Plan; and matters generally relating to amending the Plan.

**CITY COUNCIL OF THE
City of Annapolis**

Resolution 2-17

Introduced by: Mayor Pantelides

**Referred to
Finance Committee
Rules and City Government Committee**

A RESOLUTION concerning

City of Annapolis Police and Fire Retirement Plan

FOR the purpose of amending Appendix C of the Police and Fire Retirement Plan; and matters generally relating to amending the Plan.

WHEREAS, pursuant to O-35-15, on September 21, 2015, the City of Annapolis Police and Fire Retirement Plan (Amendment and Restatement Effective July 1, 2015) and its appendices were adopted by the City Council; and

WHEREAS, Appendix C of the Plan, in particular, addresses the Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP); and

WHEREAS, DROP provides for, among other things, a limitation on the number of participants in DROP and a limited participation period; and

WHEREAS, the City of Annapolis and the employees of the Annapolis Fire Department who are members of the Police and Fire Retirement Plan, agree that there is a need to amend the sections of Appendix C of the Plan that address limitation on the number of participants and the participation period with regard to the years eligible for election to be in DROP by sworn members of the Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, the Plan members in the Fire Department and the City of Annapolis are in agreement to allow for election of an additional fourth year and an additional fifth year of participation in DROP at the conclusion of the existing DROP period, which is limited to three years; and

WHEREAS, the additional option of the fourth or fifth year will not adversely affect the funding status of the Plan and is considered cost neutral; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to City Code Section 3.36.010, the attached Appendix C to the Police and Fire Retirement Plan is hereby presented to the City Council its approval.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ANNAPOLIS CITY COUNCIL that the attached Appendix C to the Police and Fire Retirement Plan is hereby adopted as amended.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE ANNAPOLIS CITY COUNCIL that this resolution shall take effect from the date of its passage.

EXPLANATION

CAPITAL LETTERS indicate matter added to existing law.

~~Strikethrough~~ indicates matter stricken from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments.

CITY OF ANNAPOLIS POLICE AND FIRE RETIREMENT PLAN

APPENDIX C

DEFERRED RETIREMENT OPTION PROGRAM (DROP PLAN)

Definitions

In this subtitle, the following words have the meanings indicated.

- (1) "DROP" means the Deferred Retirement Option Program in which a participant agrees to delay receipt of the employee's retirement benefit while the employee continues to work. Each participant receives the accumulated retirement benefit from the period of participation at retirement.
- (2) "DROP account" means the separate financial account established under this policy from which a participant is paid a lump sum distribution at retirement.
- (3) "DROP participant" means a participant who is eligible and who elects to participate in the DROP.
- (4) "DROP participation period" means the time that an employee participates in the DROP while actively employed by the City.
- (5) "Cost Neutral" means the City will not be required to expend additional funds to support the DROP program nor will the program adversely affect the funding status of the Pension Plan.
- (6) "Plan Year" means a calendar year commencing January 1 and ending December 31st.

Applicability

There is a Deferred Retirement Option Program in the City of Annapolis New and New Revised Police and Fire Retirement Plans.

Cost Neutral

The DROP program is designed to be cost neutral and an actuarial analysis will be performed every three years and the plan actuary will include a report on whether the DROP is meeting the cost neutrality objective. In the event the DROP is not cost neutral, the City and the Public Safety Unions shall meet and amend as needed the DROP to achieve cost neutrality. In the event the parties cannot come to an agreement, no new participants shall be enrolled until such time as the parties agree to and implement changes necessary to achieve cost neutrality.

Eligibility

Sworn Police and Fire personnel will have the option to elect DROP beginning on the date of eligibility for normal retirement, (20 years for those hired prior to 7/1/2012; 25 years for those hired on or after 7/1/2012). During the DROP the City will continue to make the employer contributions to the Retirement Plan. For those employees who defer their DROP entry to normal retirement date plus 5 or more years of additional service no employee contribution shall be required during the DROP period; for all other employees, the employee contribution shall be required.

Credit for Military Service

Up to three years of active duty service with the armed forces of the United States may be counted towards the 5 additional years of service beyond the normal retirement date needed for an employee to be relieved of the obligation to make employee contributions during the DROP period. However, periods of active duty service will not be credited towards the years of active service required to reach normal retirement in order to elect DROP. The Participant must provide written verification of active duty service at such time and in such form as is satisfactory to the City’s Human Resources Director.

Years of Service to Qualify for DROP	Military Service (towards additional 5 years of service beyond NRD)	Total Active Years of Service	Employee Contributions CONTINUE or WAIVED during DROP
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Employees Hired On or Before June 30, 2012

20	3	23	Continue
21	3	24	Continue
22	3	25	Waived

Employees Hired On or After July 1, 2012

25	3	28	Continue
26	3	29	Continue

27	3	30	Waived
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Applications

- (a) **Application required.** An employee who wants to participate in the DROP shall complete an application on the form required by the Human Resources Director.
- (b) **Beginning date.** In addition to providing information requested by the Human Resources Director, the employee shall specify a beginning date of the employee's DROP participation period that corresponds to the requirements of the participation period noted in (c) below.
- (c) **When submitted.** An application shall be submitted to the Human Resources Director at least 90 days before the beginning date of the employee's DROP participation period. An application may be submitted before an employee is eligible to participate in the DROP, provided that the employee is eligible as of the beginning date of the DROP participation period.

Limitation on the number of participants

- (a) **Generally.** No more than 24 employees (12 Fire & 12 Police) may be participating in the INITIAL THREE YEAR TERM OF DROP at any one time. FIRE PARTICIPATION FOR THE FOURTH OR FIFTH YEAR OF RENEWAL IS LIMITED TO FOUR (4) PARTICIPANTS IN EACH RENEWAL YEAR.
- (b) **Initial participants.** Upon inception of the INITIAL THREE YEAR TERM OF DROP participation in the DROP will be limited to eight (8) participants (4 Fire & 4 Police) per plan year until a maximum of 24 participants is realized.
- (c) **When fewer than 24 employees are participating.** If there are fewer than 24 employees participating in the INITIAL THREE YEAR TERM OF DROP as of the first day of any subsequent Plan Year, the number of additional employees who may begin participating in the DROP on that day shall be limited to the number that does not cause the total number of DROP participants to exceed 24, split evenly between Police and Fire to a maximum of 12 slots each. THIS NUMBER IS EXCLUSIVE OF THE LIMIT IMPOSED FOR FIRE PARTICIPATION FOR THE FOURTH OR FIFTH YEAR OF RENEWAL OF FOUR (4) PARTICIPANTS IN EACH RENEWAL YEAR.
- (d) **Selection by seniority.** If the application of this section requires the number of participants to be limited, participants shall be selected by seniority as determined by the Human Resources Director on the basis of the amount of actual plan service of the applicants. Annually, in conjunction with the open enrollment period, applications for participation in the DROP will be accepted by the Human Resources Department.

In the event of a tie in seniority which will affect whether an employee may enroll in the DROP, the following methods will be used to break the tie:

For employees in Fire, a random selection method will be used to break the tie. For employees in Police, please refer to language in the Collective Bargaining Agreement which specifies how to proceed.

Participation period -- mandatory retirement upon expiration

- (a) **Generally.** A DROP participation period begins on the first day of a Plan Year and expires on the last day of a Plan Year.
- (b) **Term of participation period.** The INITIAL term of a DROP participation period is three (3) years. FOR EMPLOYEES IN FIRE, THE TERM CAN BE EXTENDED TO INCLUDE THE OPTION OF TWO (2) ONE YEAR RENEWALS FOR A TOTAL OF FIVE (5) YEARS.
- (c) **Expiration before end of term.** A DROP participation period expires before the end of the current term if the DROP participant dies, voluntarily terminates or is involuntarily terminated from employment; retires (normal or disability); or becomes ineligible to participate in the plan for any reason, including a transfer to a position not covered by the plan.
- (d) **Expiration of DROP participation.** Except as otherwise provided in this subtitle, a DROP participant shall terminate service and begin receiving a retirement benefit as of the first day of the month following expiration of the DROP participation period. A participant who fails to submit the documents requesting termination and retirement shall be involuntarily terminated and retired as provided in subsection (c).

Status during participation

- (a) **Active employee.** A DROP participant is an active employee of the City and, except as provided in this subtitle, is entitled to the benefits of that employment and is subject to the laws, regulations, and policies governing that employment.
- (b) **Police and Fire Retirement Plan.** A DROP participant is a participant in the Police and Fire Retirement Plan under the conditions described in the respective plan, except that a DROP participant will have exercised the option to elect DROP subject to the following conditions:

Anyone who has elected and entered the DROP beginning on the date of eligibility for normal retirement, (20 years for those hired prior to 7/1/2012; 25 years for those hired on or after 7/1/2012) shall continue to make the required employee contribution. During the DROP the City will continue to make the employer contributions to the Plan. For those employees who defer their DROP entry to normal retirement date plus 5 or more years of additional service no employee contribution shall be required during the DROP period.

DROP account

- (a) **Account established.** The Human Resources Director shall establish an account in the pension fund for recording the actions required by this section and is not required to establish an individual account for each DROP participant.
- (b) **Retirement benefits.** The Human Resources Director shall determine, based on the standard actuarial calculation accounting for years of service and salary, the annual retirement benefit under the Police and Fire Retirement Plan a DROP participant is entitled as of the first day of the DROP participation period. The retirement benefit excludes service and salary during the DROP participation period for purposes of calculating the entitlement to and amount of the retirement benefit.

- (c) **Account balance.** The account balance credited to a DROP participant is subject to the following:
- (1) It includes the amount of the retirement benefit determined under subsection (b);
 - (2) It includes credited interest calculated under the Composite Corporate Bond Rate, based on an average of the June-November rates from the prior year for the Plan Year ahead;
 - (i) compounded on the account balance as of the first day of each month;
 - (ii) credited to the DROP participant from the beginning to the expiration of the DROP participation period.
 - (iii) amounts in the account are NOT increased by COLA granted to actual retirees.
- (d) **Statement of account balance.** At least once a year, the Human Resources Director shall provide to a DROP participant a statement of the account balance credited to the DROP participant as described in subsection (c).

Early withdrawal from participation

- (a) **Election to withdraw.** Except as provided in subsection (b), a DROP participant may elect to withdraw from participation in the DROP only by terminating employment with the City.
- (b) **Withdrawal before end of participation period.** A DROP participant whose participation ends prior to the end of the DROP participation period because of a termination of employment or ineligibility to participate in the plan for any reason:
- (1) forfeits any entitlement to the DROP benefit and
 - (2) if otherwise eligible, shall have a retirement benefit determined that includes service and salary during the DROP participation period for purposes of calculating the entitlement to and amount of the retirement benefit and that is reduced by an amount actuarially equivalent to the employee contributions not made during the DROP participation period.
 - (3) Interest shall not accrue on an account balance for any period of DROP participation that is less than a full year.

Disability during participation

- (a) **Permitted.** A DROP participant may apply for a disability pension during the DROP participation period.
- (b) **Effect of disability pension.** If a DROP participant receives a disability pension:
- (1) the benefit includes service and salary during the DROP participation period for purposes of calculating the amount of the benefit and is reduced by an amount actuarially equivalent to the employee contributions not made during the DROP participation period; and
 - (2) the participant forfeits any entitlement to the DROP benefit.
- (a) **Generally.** If a DROP participant dies during the DROP participation period, the beneficiary or beneficiaries of the participant as described in the Fire & Police Retirement Program are entitled to a death benefit under the retirement plan.

- (b) **Death result of active duty.** If the death occurs as the direct result of the active performance of duties

as described in the City Code, the death benefit includes service and salary during the DROP participation period for purposes of calculating the amount of the benefit and is reduced by the actuarial equivalent of the employee contributions not made during the DROP participation period.

- (c) **Death not result of active duty.** If the death does not occur as a direct result of the active performance of duties, the death benefit excludes service and salary during the DROP participation period for purposes of calculating the amount of the benefit and is not reduced by an amount actuarially equivalent to the employee contributions not made during the DROP participation period.
- (d) **Beneficiaries.** If a DROP participant dies during the DROP participation period, the beneficiary or beneficiaries of the participant as described in the City Code are entitled to a lump sum payment in cash of the account balance credited to the DROP participant as of the date of the death of the participant. Any payment(s) of the annuity will be determined by the election the employee made upon entering the DROP.

Retirement benefits of participants

- (a) **Generally.** On the first day of the month following expiration of the DROP participation period and the DROP participant's termination from City employment, the participant is entitled to receive the first payment of an annual retirement benefit under the Police and Fire Retirement Plan.
- (b) **Benefit** determined as if the participant had retired on the first day of the DROP participation period, using final average basic pay and including credit for residual unused sick leave for the determination of the final benefit at separation of service;
- (c) **Payment.** The participant shall receive payment of the account balance credited to the DROP participant.

Manner of payment

- (a) **Lump sum payment.** Unless elected otherwise by a DROP participant, payment of the account balance shall be made in a lump sum to the participant within 30 days of the first day of the month following expiration of the DROP participation period and the DROP participant's termination from City employment.
- (b) **One-time deferral of the lump sum payment.** The participant may elect a one-time deferral of the lump sum payment of the account balance on the form required by the Human Resources Director, provided the election is submitted no later than the expiration of the DROP participation period; the participant is not entitled to interest on the account balance because of the deferral; and payment is made within 30 days after a request is submitted to the Human Resources Director on the form required on or before the participant is 70½ years of age.
- (c) **Payment in cash; exception.** Unless otherwise elected by a DROP participant, a lump sum payment under subsection (a) or subsection (b) shall be made in cash. If permitted by federal law at the time of the payment, payment may be made by transfer or direct rollover to an eligible retirement plan as defined in the Internal Revenue Code.
- (d) **An increase in the monthly annuity amount.** The participant may elect to use the DROP balance to

increase the monthly annuity payment amount by the actuarial equivalent based form of payment election at DROP entry and the ages of the participant and, if applicable, the beneficiary at DROP exit date.

- (e) **Sole responsibilities of participant.** Selection of the retirement account, plan, or annuity and the tax consequences of a transfer or direct rollover under subsection (c) are the sole responsibility of the participant and, upon transfer or direct rollover of the account balance to the retirement account, plan, or annuity, the City has no further obligation regarding the account balance credited to the participant.

Beneficiaries

A DROP participant's beneficiary is the beneficiary on file for the pension plan with the Human Resources Department.

Future Employment

If an employee exits the DROP and is retired from the City, and subsequently is re-employed by the City in a position which is covered by the Police and Fire Retirement Plan, the employee shall not be eligible to participate in the Plan.

----- End of Appendix C -----

EXPLANATION

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