



ASSOCIATION OF CITY RETIRED EMPLOYEES
638 Jefferson
Memphis, TN 38105-4912
(901) 525-2615

April 10, 2018

**The Honorable []
Memphis City Council
125 N. Main Street STE 514
Memphis, TN 38103**

Dear []

I come to you asking that consideration be given to the plight of City retirees and the erosion of their pensions due to lack of pension increases in over 5 years, along with the continued rising costs in higher Healthcare premiums, prescriptions and just basic household needs.

I realize there are those who rebuke the Declaration of Independence's "unalienable rights' given to all human beings by their Creator and for which government is created to protect, e.g." Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness". They want to end any relationship to those who chose to move outside the City limits exercising their "unalienable rights' after years of honorable service; using that as a justification for willfully neglecting those who served Memphis faithfully for all their adult lives. Ignoring their losses of spouses, loss of health, or having to downsize due to age or moving to be near family to help them cope, or entering homes for the aged: all age related issues that stress limited incomes for which a one-time bonus would not suffice.

Yes Memphis did go through financial difficulties and the retired shared in those same hardships that the City had. But now the Reserve Fund is stronger than ever, the Healthcare Fund Liability has been reduced and even the Pension Fund is doing better posting larger increases from the last several years.

I am asking you to have mercy and reach out to those who are barely maintaining their standard of living due to the decreases in their buying power. Five years with no adjustments is enough, City Retirees need compassion and help. With a \$2 billion plus pension fund my request is miniscule, but for the aged hurting it is a God sent relief.

I am respectfully asking that you and your fellow Council members grant a \$70 a month increase to your pensioners effective July 1, 2018 or as soon thereafter as you can get an independent report on what the actual impact would be.

With respect, I am

**Michael W. Lee Sr.
President Association of City Retired Employees &
Retired Deputy Chief of Investigations for MPD**

Attachments:

Why request a dollar amount instead of a percentage?

History of City Pension Increases to Retirees

HHS Poverty Guidelines for 2018

Insurance premiums soar in Memphis CA Sat 3/24/2018

C: All City Council Members

CFO Shirley Ford

Mayor Jim Strickland

Association of City Retired Employees

Serving Memphis Retirees Since 1990



Mike Lee

President

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