

June 18, 2020

Mayor and City Council,

Once again, we are revisiting the retiree health care issue in the 2020/2021 budget. This benefit was provided to your city department heads, DPW Foreman, fire captains, fire chief, police lieutenant and police chief. These positions are at the heart of the city government and are on the front lines during the good times and the worst of times to ensure that the residents were provided not only excellent service and accountability but also to promote the goals and objectives of City Councils present and past. These positions require hundreds of overtime hours including calls after hours, weekends, holidays and vacations with no additional pay. Some received a reduced retirement benefit by being promoted into these positions. This was acceptable because it was part of the job that we all signed up for. Another part of that job was a promise made to each of us that when we retired from the city our hard work and sacrifice would be compensated by paid medical insurance for ourselves and our spouses based on years of service.

We remained loyal and committed to the city for many years. I retired from the Charlotte Police Department after 34 years at the rank of Lieutenant. As a sergeant I could have left after 27 years but chose to be promoted for a variety of reasons, one being the paid medical insurance for me and my spouse. I ask that this council honor the decisions made by previous councils as you would expect your decisions to be honored by future councils. I know it seems that promises made in the past don't seem to mean so much to some people but to the retirees effected by any decision to reduce this benefit it means the years of service and commitment to excellence means nothing anymore. We had the City of Charlotte, its residents and the City Councils backs for many years. Now we ask that you continue to have ours.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.



Rick Terpstra