

July 17, 2017

Dear Mayor and City Council:

When I attended the council meeting of July 10th I was there to listen to the discussion on the retired employees HRA contribution. I was not prepared to speak on the issue but felt I should let you know why I was in attendance and some thoughts regarding the HRA subject. I will be attending the July 24th meeting.

Since that time I have thought of some other things I want to express regarding this issue.

There are eight (8) retired employees over 65 years old and four (4) under 65 years old that retired having this benefit. This group will never be expanded but will in time due to those involved dying it will get smaller.

The maximum of this retiree groups benefit is \$500. However, only those who retire with 35 Years employment receive this amount. What is paid out to each retiree is based on the number of years they have worked.

It is a scale from 10 to 35+ years. For instance, 10 years employment is paid 50% of the \$500, 15 years 60%, 20 years 70%, and only 35+ years would receive 100% or the total \$500. To my knowledge none of the retirees in the above mentioned group receive the full \$500.00. So please consider this in your consideration for this benefit.

During my 31 years of employment I have enjoyed working with many City Councils, Mayors, City Managers, co-workers and residents. I have always tried to be a faithful and dedicated employee. When I retired I did so with a very happy and relieved feeling with my benefits in regards to my future. Also when I retired on March 1, 1994 with my MERS retirement I felt that would be sufficient to have a worry free life along with my social security. Since 1994 I have NEVER received a cost of living or any kind of raise in my retirement. The amount of income remains the same after more than 23 plus years.

I wanted to make sure of your understanding in how much this HRA amount means to me and all of the 12 retirees in this mentioned group .

We discussed in the July 10th meeting the cost of medical bills, insurance etc.that were used to pay out of this HRA amount. Our Medicare is \$134.00 a month which is deducted out of Social Security. My Humana health plan is \$280.40 a month and my prescription insurance is \$29.90 a month (with me paying the first \$400 of prescriptions each year) and my dental plan is \$37.67 a month. I believe this adds up to \$347.97 a month (excluding the medicare amount). My HRA amount is \$460.00 a month so after paying my total insurance cost the overage of \$112.99 is used to compensate the Medicare amount deducted from social security and pay on other medical bills and medical items not covered under insurance. So far this year it has totaled \$1,072.22 for the items turned into Humana. The HRA overage each month pays toward this balance. The medical insurance from Humana is evaluated the first of each year so I do expect the premium amount go up. I hope this gives you some incite on what this is used for.

2.

This year has been a difficult one in regards to losing our city group medical, prescription and dental insurance. It has been a nightmare finding other insurance and dealing with this for all of us. I ask all of you to please leave this benefit in place.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Irene Jewett". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Irene Jewett
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CITY OF CHARLOTTE
COUNCIL POLICY

SUBJECT	POLICY NO.	APP. DATE	PAGE
Retiree Health Insurance	2010-		2 of 7

Years Service	%	Years Service	%	Years Service	%
10	50	19	68	28	86
11	52	20	70	29	88
12	54	21	72	30	90
13	56	22	74	31	92
14	58	23	76	32	94
15	60	24	78	33	96
16	62	25	80	34	98
17	64	26	82	35	100
18	66	27	84	35+	100