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Patrolmen's Benevolent Association
Patrick J. Lynch, President



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Uniformed Firefighters Association
Stephen J. Cassidy, President

May 27, 2015

Dear Council Members,

We extend our thanks to the 40 Council Members who support Resolution #474 calling for equal disability protections for all New York City police officers and firefighters regardless of their date of hire. It is clear that sufficient support exists to pass a home rule resolution to correct the unjust and dangerous disparity, if one is brought for a vote. But you must act quickly if we are to correct this injustice before the State Legislature adjourns in June.

As you are aware, the City administration has recently released an "alternative" proposal. However, that is not an acceptable substitute for the legislation supported by the PBA and UFA, only perpetuating the current two-tiered disability system and in many cases actually reducing protections for police officers and firefighters seriously injured in the line-of-duty.

The proposal announced by the City administration on May 13, 2015 was fashioned without any input from the PBA and UFA and would not provide equal disability benefits, and may in-fact worsen the inequality. The administration's proposal is not only unjust, but illogical, hurting the very heroes it claims to help.

The PBA and UFA have called for the Council to approve a home rule request on A.6046/S.4269 to provide police officers and firefighters, hired after July 2009 under the Tier 3 pension plan, with the same line-of-duty disability protections as those under Tier 2. This includes a disability pension of 75% of final average salary, not reduced by any Social Security disability benefits, and has been a standard protection for New York City's emergency responders for more than 40 years. They are the same benefits currently provided to ALL New York City EMS employees and to every other police officer and firefighter in New York State.

As our city strives to bring greater diversity to the ranks of NYPD and FDNY, it is treating those recruits as second-class citizens by providing them and their families with inferior protections against the dangers of the job. This is clearly inconsistent with the progressive values professed by the administration and the Council. It also violates the moral obligation to those who sacrifice their health and livelihood to protect their fellow New Yorkers.

We therefore respectfully request you disregard the administration's inadequate and self-serving "alternative" proposal and immediately pass a home rule resolution in support of real and equal disability protections for all of New York City's Finest and Bravest.

Sincerely,

Patrick J. Lynch
President
Patrolmen's Benevolent Association

Stephen J. Cassidy
President
Uniformed Firefighters Association