

4/28/2008
4/18/2008
3/3/2008

21-R-08

A RESOLUTION

Urging the General Assembly to Protect Police and Fire Pensions

WHEREAS, the Illinois police and firefighter pension funds are facing uncertainty and a financial crisis is developing; and

WHEREAS, the Illinois General Assembly has continued to add to the growing costs of these pension funds through increasing benefits without consulting with local governments and without providing additional revenues; and

WHEREAS, earlier retirements, benefit increases, and investment restrictions in recent years have contributed to escalating debt carried by police and fire pension funds from 1999-2004; and

WHEREAS, the average Statewide municipal amount of pension unfunded liability carried as of 2004 reached one hundred seventy-nine thousand, nine hundred fifty-eight dollars (\$179,958.00) per active police officer, and one hundred seventy-six thousand, eight hundred forty-five dollars (\$176,845.00) per active firefighter; and

WHEREAS, the amount of City of Evanston unfunded pension liability carried as of 2007 reached a total of one hundred forty million, one hundred ninety-five thousand, two hundred four dollars (\$140,195,204.00) to be funded by 2033; and

WHEREAS, the City of Evanston has budgeted contributions in the amount of seven million, three hundred eighty thousand, five hundred thirty-nine dollars (\$5,679,539.00) to the fire pension fund; and nine million, three hundred eighty-five thousand, fifty-three dollars (\$6,897,353.00) for the current year; and

WHEREAS, there is no certainty that the current benefit levels are sustainable by municipalities for existing and improved benefits; and

WHEREAS, local taxpayers are ultimately financially responsible for the growing pension obligations and will invariably be expected to pay those costs,

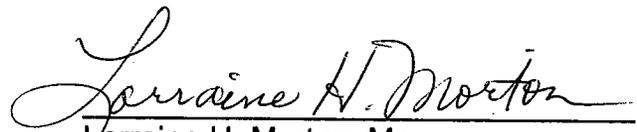
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EVANSTON, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS:

SECTION 1: That the foregoing recitals are hereby found as fact and made a part hereof.

SECTION 2: That the City of Evanston urges the General Assembly to stop approving new and increased unfunded pension benefits for the police and fire pension funds.

SECTION 3: That the General Assembly embraces sensible pension reforms in the areas of meaningful regulation, enhanced local government funding authority, and flexibility in investment structures.

SECTION 4: That this Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after the date of its passage and approval in the manner provided by law.


Lorraine H. Morton, Mayor

Attest:


Mary P. Morris, City Clerk

Adopted: April 28, 2008