



CITY OF
FORT LAUDERDALE

GENERAL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM

316 N.E. Fourth Street, Suite 2 Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

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www.Citypension.com

February 17, 2022

City Manager Chris Lagerbloom
Mayor Dean Trantalis
Vice-Mayor Ben Sorensen
Commissioner Heather Moraitis
Commissioner Steven Glassman
Commissioner Robert McKinzie

RE: GERS Pension Plan – Waiver Reduction Early Retirement Factor Charles Darby

Dear Mayor and Commissioners:

I am writing on behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Fort Lauderdale General Employees' Retirement System (GERS) to respectfully request favorable consideration for the waiver of the early reduction factor for recent retiree Charles Darby. The City Commission, in its discretion, is permitted to waive this factor under the provisions within Ordinance 15-40, Sec. 20-110. Retirement Benefits (b)(2).

Mr. Darby petitioned the Board of Trustees at our recent meeting held January 13, 2022 with an explanation of his circumstances that were deemed unusual and compelling therefore worthy of the Board's request for your consideration of this matter.

Charles Darby has faithfully served the City for over 18 years and for most of his tenure he has suffered through multiple and ultimately debilitating medical issues. Despite enormous setbacks, Mr. Darby demonstrated exceptional performance and contribution throughout the years without any special considerations or accommodations. Mr. Darby is very proud of his service to the City and fully intended to complete his career at age 55. Unfortunately and through no fault of his own, his medical condition has deteriorated to the point where he can just no longer serve.

The waiver requested would not provide any additional service credit in the Plan but instead would eliminate the 6.5% early retirement factor against his accrued benefit since he is retiring before age 55. While the difference of \$250.08 monthly is not a large amount, it would make a tremendous difference to Mr. Darby as he navigates through his declining health situation and related medical expenses.

Thank you in advance for your consideration in this matter and should you have any questions or need any additional information do not hesitate to contact me at 954-828-5171.

Best regards,

Nick Schiess, Plan Administrator

Ordinance 15-40, Sec. 20-110. Retirement benefits. (b)(2)....An immediate monthly Pension commencing on the first day of any month prior to his Normal Retirement Date equal to his Accrued Pension reduced by five-twelfths (5/12) percent for each month by which the commencement date of such Pension precedes the Normal Retirement Date of a Group I Member. The early retirement Pension of a Group II Member shall be reduced by one-third (1/3) percent for each month by which the commencement date of such Pension precedes such Member's Normal Retirement Date up to a maximum of sixty (60) months and one-half (%) percent for each additional month by which such commencement date precedes such Member's Normal Retirement Date. Provided, however, that upon favorable recommendation by the Board, which recommendation shall contain a detailed statement of the facts and circumstances applicable to the case, the City Commission may, in its discretion, waive the reduction factor if there is a finding by the Board of unusual and compelling circumstances which justify such a waiver.

Nicholas Schiess

Subject: FW: [-EXTERNAL-] FW: Early Retirement penalty waiver

----- Original message -----

From: Wayne Darby <mississippi68@comcast.net>

Date: 11/29/21 12:41 PM (GMT-05:00)

To: nschiess@fortlauderdale.gov

Cc: 'Wayne Darby' <WDarby@fortlauderdale.gov>

Subject: Early Retirement penalty waiver

To the members of the pension board:

I have battled various health issues all of my adult life and have been able to perform my job at a high level without asking for any special considerations or accommodations. As I got older, my challenges have gotten greater but it has been my fervent desire to complete my service to Fort Lauderdale by working until retirement eligibility. Recent drastic changes in my health have made my goal unattainable as I am now faced with grave threats to my health that make it impossible for me to continue working.

I find myself in the uncomfortable position of asking the Board to assist me by waiving the penalty I face for early retirement. The penalty is less than 8% which is not a large amount but will make a huge difference to me as I try to cope with the new situation in which I find myself.

I had hoped to be able to appear personally before the Board to make this request but I am currently physically unable to do so. I hope you will give my request favorable consideration and I am more than willing to answer any questions you may have or provide more information.

Sincerely,

Charles W. Darby

Employee #023799