



CITY OF ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

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January 4, 2021

Ann Arbor City Council
Council Chambers
301 E. Huron Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

RE: Distribution of Funds from the Police and Firemen's Relief Fund

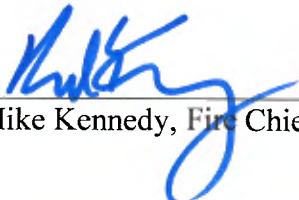
Dear Council Members,

The City acts as a trustee for the Police and Firemen's Relief Fund ("Fund"), which was created in 1926 "to be used for relief of the widows and orphans of firemen and policemen." The ordinance that created the Fund provides that money may be withdrawn for such purposes upon the joint recommendation of the Chief of Police and the Fire Chief, and approval by City Council." There is currently approximately \$690,000 in the Fund.


The City made the first distribution in recent memory from the fund (\$50,000) in approximately November of 2006 for the benefit of Firefighter Amy Schnearle-Pennywitt's family after she died in the line-of-duty on January 13, 2006. In January 2019, four additional distributions \$25,0000 (\$100,00 total) were made. Specifically: (1) Police Officer Jason Zogaib died, while not in the line of duty, on March 13, 2009, leaving behind his wife Lila and a young son and daughter; (2) Police Officer Vada Murray died, while not in the line of duty, on April 6, 2011, leaving behind his wife Sarah and three children; (3) Driver/Operator Daniel Armitage died on January 5, 2012, while not in the line of duty, leaving behind his wife, Christine and three young sons; and (4) Lt. Lyle Sartori died, while not in the line of duty, on November 7, 2018, leaving behind his wife, Senior Officer Jennifer Sartori (also a City police officer), and three children.

Craig Sidelinger served the City of Ann Arbor from March 13, 2000 through November 23, 2020. He received a duty disability retirement due to a terminal cancer diagnosis. He served as training officer for ten years prior to his retirement. Mr. Sidelinger died this morning from cancer. The State of Michigan has recognized his cancer diagnosis under the State of Michigan Public Act 515 of 2014 the First Responder Presumed Coverage Fund. He leaves behind a wife and two young children. We both support a distribution of \$25,000 from the City's Police and Firemen's Relief Fund to the spouse of Craig Sidelinger.

Sincerely,



Mike Kennedy, Fire Chief



Michael Cox, Police Chief