

August, 13, 2008



Jacksonville Police and Fire Pension News

"We Serve...and We Protect"

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - ADMINISTRATOR

SPECIAL EDITION August 13, 2008



Florida TaxWatch bills itself as a “non partisan, non profit research institute and government watchdog based in Tallahassee. It is best known for their annual report of “Legislative Turkeys”, legislation appropriating dollars for projects that have not been fully reviewed, also known as “political pork”.

According to the Florida TaxWatch news release, Council Member Daniel Davis, during his term as Council President, invited TaxWatch to conduct the study “Enhancing Efficiencies in the City of Jacksonville: Fiscal Year 2008-09 and Beyond” and was further welcomed by Mayor Peyton.

The majority of the study was devoted to reviewing the City organizational structure, the record of past accomplishments, analyzing the methods the City uses to conduct business such as purchasing, and offering suggestions to save cost of elections.

The Times-Union headline of August 12, 2008, “Analysis: Police, fire pension too kind” did not correctly capture the contents of the report. The report recommended a “task force be formed to study pensions options and future management of the funds”. The report also suggested the City could save millions of dollars in Social Security costs for employees not covered by the General Employees Pension Fund.

THE BOTTOM LINE: All Police and Fire Pension Benefits are fully protected by the Florida Constitution, Florida Statue, the Jacksonville Ordinance Code, and the Settlement Agreement.

NO CHANGES CAN BE MADE BY THE CITY THAT WILL REDUCE YOUR PENSION RIGHTS AND BENEFITS. THE PENSION FUND IS NOT GOING TO BE CLOSED. THE DROP PROGRAM IS NOT BEING CHANGED OR CANCELLED.

The Pension Board and Staff of the Police and Fire Pension Fund are “on watch” working to protect you and your benefits.