

## **Jacksonville Public Safety Officers' Pension Benefit Committee**

In order to assist public safety officers in addressing any future concerns or issues regarding pension or retirement benefits, the Task Force recommends creating a Public Safety Officer Retirement Benefit Committee through the City of Jacksonville Ordinance Code. The committee would be elected by public safety officers who participate in the Police Fire Pension Fund. One member would be elected by sworn members of the Jacksonville Sheriff's office holding the rank of sergeant or below; one elected by the sworn members of the Jacksonville Sheriff's office holding any rank above sergeant; one member would be elected from the members of the Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department holding the rank of engineer or below, and one member elected by members of the Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department holding ranks above that of engineer. All members of the committee and all persons voting to elect such members must be members of the Jacksonville Police and Fire Pension Fund, and elections would take place once every two years. The four elected members of the committee shall designate the fifth member, who shall serve as the spokesperson and chief negotiator for the group. The unions whose members comprise the Police and Fire Pension Fund may, but need not, designate this committee as their bargaining agent for any collective bargaining purposes involving pension or retirement issues. Once a designation as bargaining agent is made, it shall be continuing until such time as any union provides notification of withdrawal of such designation.

The creation of this committee is not intended to weaken or hinder any rights that any union or other entity has regarding pension rights or benefits, and shall not infringe upon the validity of any existing agreement, including the so-called 30 year agreement between the Jacksonville Police and Fire Pension Fund and the City of Jacksonville. However, the creation of this committee is designed to permit more effective negotiation and discussion of pension issues with the representatives of the Police and Fire Pension Fund members. Should future collective bargaining negotiations become necessary, and should the unions representing the members of the Police and Fire Pension Fund designate this committee as their bargaining agent, this committee could formulate policy and discuss necessary issues relating to future pension benefits. Should no negotiations become necessary, this committee would stand as an important entity designed to formulate policy for future benefits on behalf of the members of the Police and Fire Pension Fund.