

## Aileen Bittner

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**From:** Beth L Tashnick  
**Sent:** Monday, August 25, 2014 3:56 PM  
**To:** Aileen Bittner  
**Subject:** FW: Firefighter's Incentive pay change

### **Beth Tashnick** | City Manager's Office Coordinator

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**From:** BARBARA KOEHN [<mailto:tbiggb@wowway.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 25, 2014 10:41 AM  
**To:** Brian M Kischnick  
**Subject:** Firefighter's Incentive pay change

August 25, 2014

Dear City Council Member,

It has recently been brought to my attention, the city council will vote on a resolution which will institute a two-tiered system in regards to the volunteer firefighter's incentive program.

As a December 2009 retiree of the Troy Fire Department after volunteering for 20+ years, I must object to the resolution which provides those firefighters who retire after 10 years of service or have attained the age of 55 as of July 1, 2014, a raise. In other words, the two-tier system which has been proposed will negate any cost of living increase or change in our incentive pay.

Those of us who retired before July 1, 2014, have spent at least ten years volunteering to go into a burning building, taking and passing firefighter 1 and 2 classes and attended weekly training. We have gotten up in the middle of the night in order to assist our fellow firefighters with structure fires, left our wives or significant others in restaurants, movie theaters, and at family functions, etc. These examples are no different for those of us who retired before July 1, 2014 or after. We all have been considered firefighters, but now you have decided to separate us without any information being sent on the new two-tiered system.

I can't help but ask each of you, what is the difference between those who have performed the exact same duties for at least ten years but retired before July 1, 2014? Your answer should be zero. Then why have you decided to negate our service and deny us a yearly or a percentage cost of living allowance? This entire resolution makes no sense to me as a retired firefighter. What brought you to the decision that a firefighter who retired before July 1, 2014 is more deserving than those of us who retired before July 1, 2014?

In addition, it seems as though this resolution has been decided without notification of those of us, whom will be affected. Why wasn't there an informational meeting or at the very least a letter sent? It gives me the impression you just don't care about those who have come before and retired before July 1, 2014. Did someone drop the information ball?

Perhaps there could be an amendment introduced to at least provide those of us whom this resolution affects with a COLA percentage, yearly??

It would be appreciated if each of you would email me at [tbiggb@wowway.com](mailto:tbiggb@wowway.com) or call my cell phone, 248-835-4506 with your reasoning for negating my 20 years of service to the Troy Fire Department. You must remember that volunteer fire departments such as ours are rare. While we do not get paid for each run or at any time while we are active firefighters, please stop and think about your decision. The service I gave the City of Troy is the exact same service as the active firefighters are providing now, but their service has been deemed more important than mine.

Sincerely,

Paul G. Koehn, R13 (formally FF615)

[tbiggb@wowway.com](mailto:tbiggb@wowway.com)

248-835-4506