

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS OF ARTICLE IV OF CHAPTER 8 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF NORWICH PERTAINING TO THE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS' RELIEF FUND PLAN

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH THAT the sections listed below be, and hereby are, amended as set out herein:

Section 8-72 Definitions – 8-72(a) and 8-72(d)

Section 8-73 Eligibility for participation – 8-73 and 8-73(b)

Section 8-74 Service – 8-74(b)(iii)(5)

Section 8-76 Disability benefits – 8-76(a)

Section 8-78 Refund of contributions – 8-78(a)

Sec. 8-72. - Definitions.

When used in sections 8-71 through 8-89, the following terms have the meanings set forth below unless a different meaning is plainly required by the text:

(a) Active member. A member of any department who [meets the call and training requirements enumerated in section 8-74] performs fire duties for the benefit of the district responding to at least five percent of his/her department's emergency calls or 35 emergency calls during the plan year; and attends at least five percent of his/her department's training sessions and drills or four hours of training or drills during the plan year.

(d) Break in service. Failure of a volunteer to [earn credited service during a plan year] meet the requirements to be an active member.

Sec. 8-73. - Eligibility for participation in plan.

(b) Declining membership. If an active member declines plan membership when first eligible, such active member forfeits that year of credited service and any other years of credited service until becoming a plan member. The active member may apply for membership as of any subsequent anniversary date, however all benefits pursuant to this plan shall be determined by reference to the credited service earned after becoming a plan member; notwithstanding the limited periods of prior service buybacks listed in 8-74(b)(iii).

Sec. 8-74. - Service.

(b) Buyback of prior service time.

(iii) Limited periods of prior service buybacks:

(5) 90-day period following adoption of Ord. No. 1648 on January 3, 2011. Plan members with 35 years of credited service and who continue to earn credited service as of January 1, [2006] 2011 will be eligible to buy back up to five additional years of credited service for a maximum of 40 years of credited service at the rate of \$216.00 per year.

Sec. 8-76. - Disability benefits.

(a) Any plan member who is determined to have a disability as described in (b) herein shall commence receiving his/her benefits six months after the date of the determination of the disability. The disability benefits [will] shall be calculated [using] as though the disabled plan member has [both] the maximum years of credited service [and] using the rate applicable in section 8-75(c) as of the date that disability has been determined.

Sec. 8-78. - Refund of contributions.

(a) A plan member whose services with a department have ended for any reason other than death, retirement, or transferring to another department, or who wishes to withdraw from the plan may request a refund of all of his/her contributions to the plan with credited interest. Such request shall be reviewed and approved by [the committee at its next regular meeting] the plan member's department and the comptroller or his/her designee prior to payment.

Mayor Deberey Hinchey

Purpose: To clarify and make amendments to the Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Fund Plan with respect to the sections concerning definitions, purchase of prior service, disability service, and refunds of plan member contributions.