



JACKSONVILLE ASSOCIATION OF FIREFIGHTERS

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIREFIGHTERS, LOCAL 122

November, 4th, 2016

For Immediate Release:

The Jacksonville Association of Firefighters represent firefighters of the Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department. Our firefighters are an integral part of the community and respond daily to 911 calls throughout Jacksonville. We raise our families in Jacksonville and are involved in all levels of community service. We have always responded to the needs of Jacksonville, whether it be a medical emergency, fire in your home or car, or disasters such as the recent Hurricane Mathew.

Jacksonville's Firefighters are recognized as professionals who take the lead on important issues and are core contributors to what makes our city great!

The JAFF is encouraged to have the opportunity to sit down with the Mayor of Jacksonville and his staff to collectively bargain for a defined and sustainable benefits/wage package that brings the best and brightest to Jacksonville, while sustaining current employees for the long term.

Jacksonville cannot afford to be a turnstile city for firefighters/paramedics. Training and retention of good employees must be paired with benefits that are equal or above other cities. The firefighters of Jacksonville must have a competitive and sustainable retirement plan, with a defined projected growth of benefits to support the families we are trying to attract to Jacksonville nationwide.

We know negotiations with the City of Jacksonville will be challenging. The pay wage reduction of 2010 is an example of our continued support to assist city leaders with the challenges faced in recent years along with our support of aggressive pension reform here and in Tallahassee.

The Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Dept, has to be competitive to attract the best candidates. Currently, we arguably have the worst retirement package for firefighters that are high risk in the state of Florida. Current employees were also negatively affected through recent changes made by the City of Jacksonville and the Jacksonville Police and Firemen's pension board.

Wages have been reduced to below the average to be competitive and attract/sustain those fire and emergency medical service professionals, we so desperately need to keep Jacksonville safe and healthy.

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Sincerely yours,

Randy Wyse
President

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