

3 – EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

3.13 - Group Insurance Benefits - Public Safety Officers' Health Benefits Provision

Revised: July 1, 2007

PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS' (POLICE OFFICERS) HEALTH BENEFITS PROVISION

The same level of health insurance benefits shall be provided to a public safety officer who retires or is separated from service due to personal injury suffered as a direct or proximate result of a personal injury sustained in the line of duty while responding to an emergency situation or hot pursuit, as the officer was receiving while on active duty. The time at which the line-of-duty injury occurred governs the level of benefits. The length of time the benefits are provided is the same length of time that benefits are provided under a normal retirement plan.

Definitions are as defined by section 1204 of Title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, as amended, as follows:

A public safety officer shall be defined as “an individual serving a public agency in an official capacity, with or without compensation, as a law enforcement officer ...”

A law enforcement officer shall be defined as “an individual involved in crime and juvenile delinquency control or reduction, or enforcement of the laws including, but not limited to police...officers.”

A public agency shall be defined as “the United States ...or any unit of local government, department, agency ... of any of the foregoing.”

Because of the absence of state statutory law, state case law, or local law, the following definitions and procedure shall be recognized:

“Hot pursuit” shall be as defined by the City’s Police Department Policy #4-95; “An active attempt by an officer to apprehend fleeing suspects who are attempting to avoid apprehension through evasive tactics.”

“Emergency situation” shall be defined as an unexpected occurrence potentially involving immediate danger to person(s) or property requiring prompt action.”

The City Attorney shall act as the hearing officer for reviewing and determining if a personal injury was suffered as the direct and proximate result of an event occurring in the line of duty while responding to an emergency situation or a hot pursuit.