

SECTION 1305. Exercising Right Without Franchise.

The exercise by any person, firm or corporation of any privilege for which a franchise is required without procuring such franchise shall be a misdemeanor and each day that such continues shall constitute a separate violation.

SECTION 1306. Article Not Applicable to City.

Nothing in this Article shall be construed to apply to the City, or any department thereof, when furnishing any public utility or service.

SECTION 1307. Preservation of Rights.

Nothing contained in this Article shall be construed to affect or impair any rights, powers or privileges vested in, possessed by or available to the City by virtue of previous Charter provisions relating to franchises.

**ARTICLE XIV
SCHOOL SYSTEM**

SECTION 1400. Effect of Charter.

The organization, government and administration of the public school system in the City of San José shall not be affected by the adoption of this Charter, but shall continue in existence as is now or hereafter prescribed by the Education Code of the State of California.

**ARTICLE XV
RETIREMENT**

SECTION 1500. Duty to Provide Retirement System.

Except as hereinafter otherwise provided, the Council shall provide, by ordinance or ordinances, for the creation, establishment and maintenance of a retirement plan or plans for all officers and employees of the City. Such plan or plans need not be the same for all officers and employees. Subject to other provisions of this Article, the Council may at any time, or from time to time, amend or otherwise change any retirement plan or plans or adopt or establish a new or different plan or plans for all or any officers or employees; provided, however the Council shall not establish any new or different plan after November 3, 2010 that is not actuarially sound.

Amended at election November 2, 2010

SECTION 1501. Exclusions.

- (a) The Council in its discretion may exclude all or any of the following persons from any or all retirement plans, to wit: Persons mentioned in sub-paragraphs (1), (2), (4), (5), (6), and (7) of sub-section (a) of Section 1101 of this Charter; all persons employed or whose services are contracted for pursuant to any transfer, consolidation or contract mentioned or referred to in Section 1109 of this Charter; persons employed pursuant to Section 1110 of this Charter; persons in City service primarily for training, study or educational purposes; persons employed or paid on a part-time, per diem, per hour or any basis other than a monthly basis; temporary employees; persons employed pursuant to any relief or anti-poverty program primarily for the purpose of giving relief or aid to such persons. Also, persons who are members of any other retirement or pension system, other than the federal social security system or any other federal retirement or pension system, and who are receiving credit in such other system for service rendered to the City may be excluded, as to such service, from any such plan or plans.
- (b) On or after November 3, 2010, the Council, may by ordinance, exclude any officer or employee hired on or after the ordinance's effective date from any retirement plan or benefit of any retirement plan in existence on the effective date of the ordinance. Any such ordinance shall be subject to the requirements of applicable law.

Amended at election November 2, 2010

SECTION 1502. Authority to Join Other Systems.

Subject to other provisions of this Article, the City, by and through its Council, is hereby empowered, but not required, to join or continue as a contracting agency in any retirement or pension system or systems existing or hereafter created under the laws of the State of California or of the United States of America to which municipalities and municipal officers or employees are eligible.

SECTION 1503. Continuance of Existing Retirement Systems.

Any and all retirement system or systems, existing upon adoption of this Charter, for the retirement of officers or employees of the City, adopted under any law or color of any law, including but not limited to those retirement systems established by Parts 1, 2 and 4 of Chapter 9 of Article II of the San José Municipal Code, are hereby confirmed, validated and declared legally effective and shall continue until otherwise provided by ordinance. The foregoing provisions of this Section shall operate to supply such authorization as may be necessary to validate any such retirement system or systems which could have been supplied in the Charter of the City of San José or by the people of the City at the time of adoption or amendment of any such retirement system or systems. However, subject to other provisions of this Article, the Council shall at all times have the power and right to repeal or amend any such retirement system or systems, and to adopt or establish a new or different plan or plans

for all or any officers or employees, it being the intent that the foregoing sections of this Article shall prevail over the provisions of this Section.

SECTION 1504. Minimum Benefits for Certain Members of Police and Fire Departments.

The Council, by ordinance, shall provide the following minimum benefits for the following members of the Police and Fire Departments of the City excepting those members who are hereinafter excluded from the application of this Section.

- (a) **RETIREMENT.** An officer or employee of the Police Department or Fire Department of the City shall be entitled, upon his or her request, to be retired from City service and to receive during such retirement until his or her death a monthly retirement allowance equal to fifty percent (50%) of his or her “final compensation,” hereinafter defined, if he or she:
 - (1) Completes twenty (20) years of “service,” hereinafter defined, and attains, while holding such office or employment, the age of fifty-five (55) years or more; or
 - (2) Completes twenty (20) years of “service,” hereinafter defined, is “disabled,” as such term is hereinafter defined, while holding such office or employment, and applies for such retirement while holding such office or employment.
- (b) **CONTRIBUTIONS.** Contributions required to be made by officers and employees of the Police Department or Fire Department of the City to any retirement fund, plan or system for or because of current service or current service benefits of or for such officers or employees, in relation to and as compared with contributions made by the City for such purpose, shall not exceed the ratio of three (3) for such officers and employees to eight (8) for the City. The foregoing provision, however, does not apply to any contributions required for or because of any prior service or prior service benefits, nor to any contributions required for or because of membership in the Federal Old Age and Survivorship Insurance Program or any other Federal insurance or retirement program or because of benefits provided by any such program.
- (c) **ACTUARIAL SOUNDNESS.** Any retirement plan or system established for officers or employees of the Police or Fire Departments shall be actuarially sound; and an actuarial report thereon shall be obtained at intervals not exceeding five (5) years.
- (d) **DEFINITIONS.** As used in this Section, “service” means service as defined on the effective date of this Charter in Topic 5 of Part 3A of Chapter 9 of Article II of the San José Municipal Code; and “final compensation” means final compensation as defined on the effective date of this Charter in Topic 1 of Part

3A of Chapter 9 of Article II of the San José Municipal Code, except that with respect to officers and employees who on the effective date of this Charter are members of the Police and Fire Department Retirement Plan established by Part 3 of Chapter 9 of Article II of the San José Municipal Code “final compensation” shall be deemed to mean the average monthly pay received by any such officer or employee during the three (3) years immediately preceding his or her request for retirement. Also, as used in this Section, “disabled” means the incurrence of a disability, short of death, of permanent duration, resulting from injury or disease, which renders the officer or employee incapable of continuing to satisfactorily assume the responsibilities and perform the duties and functions of his or her office or position and of any other office or position in the same classification of offices or positions to which the City may offer to transfer him or her; provided, however, that such a disability shall be deemed to be of permanent duration if the City or any of its authorized agencies finds that such disability will continue at least until the disabled person attains the age of fifty-five (55) years.

- (e) MISCELLANEOUS. The benefits hereinabove specified are minimum only; and the Council, in its discretion, may grant greater or additional benefits. The City shall not be deemed obligated, by virtue of any of the above provisions, to continue to employ any person or persons until he or she or they qualify for or request any retirement benefits. Also, anything hereinabove to the contrary notwithstanding, any retirement allowance may be terminated and cancelled if the person otherwise entitled thereto commits treason or is convicted of a felony.

- (f) PERSONS EXCLUDED. The provisions of this Section shall not apply to any of the following persons, the same being hereby excluded from the application of the above provisions, to wit: Any and all persons hereinabove mentioned or referred to in Section 1501; officers or employees whose principal duties are those of a telephone operator, clerk, stenographer, secretary, machinist or mechanic; and any and all other officers or employees whose principal duties or functions do not fall clearly within the scope of active law enforcement or active fire fighting and prevention service even though such an officer or employee is subject to occasional call or is occasionally called upon to perform duties or functions within the scope of active law enforcement service or active fire fighting or prevention service, excepting persons employed and qualifying as police patrolmen or in equal or higher rank in the police department irrespective of the duties to which they are assigned, or persons employed and qualifying as firemen, fire fighters, hosemen or in equal or higher rank in the fire department irrespective of the duties to which they are assigned. Also, the provisions of this Section shall not apply to any person or persons who have been retired from the service of the City prior to the effective date of this Charter.

Amended at election June 7, 1994

SECTION 1505. Minimum Benefits for Officers and Employees Other Than Members of the Police or Fire Departments.

The Council, by ordinance, shall provide the following minimum benefits for all officers and employees of the City excepting those who are hereinafter excluded from the application of this Section.

- (a) **SERVICE RETIREMENT.** An officer or employee of the City, other than those hereinafter excluded, shall be entitled, upon his or her request, to be retired from City service and to receive during such retirement until his or her death an annual retirement allowance equal to two percent (2%) of his or her “final compensation,” hereinafter defined, per each year of his or her first twenty-five (25) years of service, hereinafter defined, plus one percent (1%) of such final compensation per each year of his or her service in excess of twenty-five (25) years, subject to a maximum of eighty-five percent (85%) of such final compensation, if he or she:
 - (1) Completes twenty-five (25) years or more of “service,” hereinafter defined, and attains, while holding such office or employment, the age of fifty-five (55) years or more; or
 - (2) Attains, while holding such office or employment, the age of seventy (70) years or more regardless of his or her years of service.

- (b) **DISABILITY RETIREMENT.** An officer or employee of the City, other than those hereinafter excluded, who has completed ten (10) years of “service,” hereinafter defined, and is “disabled,” as such term is hereinafter defined, while holding such office or employment, and applies for a disability retirement while holding such office or employment, shall be entitled, upon his or her request, to be retired from City service because of such disability, and to thereafter receive, during the period of such disability, a monthly disability retirement allowance equal in amount to the monthly disability retirement allowance provided for in Topic 16 of Part 4 of Chapter 9 of Article II of the San José Municipal Code as said Topic and Chapter read on the effective date of this Charter.

- (c) **CONTRIBUTIONS.** Contributions required to be made by officers and employees of the City, other than those hereinafter excluded, to any retirement fund, system or plan for or because of current service or current service benefits of or for such officers or employees, in relation to and as compared with contributions made by the City for such purpose, shall not exceed the ratio of three (3) for such officers and employees to eight (8) for the City. The foregoing provision, however, does not apply to any contributions required for or because of any prior service or prior service benefits, nor to any contributions required for or because of membership in the Federal Old Age and Survivorship

Insurance Program or any other Federal insurance or retirement program or for or because of any benefits provided by any such program.

- (d) **DEFINITIONS.** As used in this Section, “service” means all service for which an officer or employee is entitled to credit under the provisions of the retirement system established by Part 4 of Chapter 9 of Article II of the San José Municipal Code as such Part 4 reads on the effective date of this Charter; and “final compensation” means final compensation as defined on the effective date of this Charter in Topic 1 of Part 4 of Chapter 9 of Article II of the San José Municipal Code. Also, as used in this Section, “disabled” means the incurrence of a disability, short of death, resulting from injury or disease, which renders the officer or employee incapable of continuing to satisfactorily assume the responsibilities and perform the duties and functions of his or her office or position and of any other office or position in the same classification of offices or positions to which the City may offer to transfer him or her.
- (e) **MISCELLANEOUS.** The benefits hereinabove specified are minimum only; and the Council in its discretion, may grant greater or additional benefits. The City shall not be deemed obligated, by virtue of any of the above provisions, to continue to employ any person or persons until he or she or they qualify for or request any retirement benefits. Also, anything hereinabove to the contrary notwithstanding, any service or disability retirement allowance may be terminated and cancelled if the person otherwise entitled thereto commits treason or is convicted of a felony.
- (f) **PERSONS EXCLUDED.** The provisions of this Section shall not apply to any of the following persons, the same being hereby excluded from the application of the above provisions, to wit: Any and all persons mentioned or referred to in Section 1501; and any and all officers and employees in the Police Department and Fire Department of the City; any person or persons who have been retired from the service of the City prior to the effective date of this Charter; and any and all persons to whom, on the effective date of this Charter, the provisions of Topic 15A of Part 4 of Chapter 9 of Article II of the San José Municipal Code, as it reads on the effective date of this Charter, do not apply.

Amended at election June 7, 1994

SECTION 1506. Conformance to State and Federal Law.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Article, the City Council may, by ordinance, and subject to the provisions of California Government Code Section 3500 *et seq.*, provide for the conformance of any retirement plan or plans established and maintained by the City of San José to Section 415 of the United States Internal Revenue Code or other applicable provisions of the laws of the United States or the State of California.

Added at election June 5, 1990

ARTICLE XV-A RETIREMENT

Section 1501-A. Intent.

The City of San Jose's financial ability to provide basic services is essential to the health, safety, quality of life and well-being of its residents. This Act is intended to strengthen the City's financial ability to ensure the City can provide reasonable and sustainable postemployment benefits while at the same time delivering essential city services to the residents of San Jose. This Act is further designed to ensure that no future defined retirement benefit increases occur without voter approval.

Amended at election November 8, 2016

Section 1502-A. Act Supersedes All Conflicting Provisions.

The Sections of Article XV-A enacted by the voters pursuant to the ballot measure known as Measure B in 2012 are hereby replaced in their entirety by the following provisions. The provisions of this Act shall prevail over all other conflicting or inconsistent wage, pension, or postemployment benefit provisions in the Charter, ordinances, resolutions, or other enactments.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Article, the City Council may, by ordinance, and subject to the provisions of California Government Code Section 3500 et seq., provide for the conformance of any retirement plan or plans established and maintained by the City of San José to Section 415 of the United States Internal Revenue Code or other applicable provisions of the laws of the United States or the State of California.

Amended at election November 8, 2016

SECTION 1503-A Reservation of Voter Authority

- (a) There shall be no enhancements to defined retirement benefits in effect as of January 1, 2017, without voter approval. A defined retirement benefit is any defined post-employment benefit program, including defined benefit pension plans and defined benefit retiree healthcare benefits. An enhancement is any change to defined retirement benefits, including any change to pension or retiree healthcare benefits or retirement formula that increases the total aggregate cost of the benefit in terms of normal cost and unfunded liability as determined by the Retirement Board's actuary. This does not include other changes which do not directly modify specific defined retirement benefits, including but not limited to any medical plan design changes, subsequent compensation increases which may increase an employee's final compensation, or any assumption changes as determined by the Retirement Board.

- (a) If the State Legislature or the voters of the State of California enact a requirement of voter approval for the continuation of defined pension benefits, the voters of the City of San Jose hereby approve the continuation of the

pension benefits in existence at the time of passage of the State measure including those established by this measure.

Amended at election November 8, 2016

Section 1504-A. Retirement Benefits – Tier 2.

The Tier 2 retirement plan shall include the following benefits listed below. This retirement program shall be referred to as “Tier 2” and shall be effective for employees hired on or after the following dates except as otherwise provided in this section: (1) Sworn Police Officers: August 4, 2013; (2) Sworn Firefighters: January 2, 2015 and (3) Federated: September 30, 2012. Employees initially hired before the effective date of Tier 2 shall be Tier 1 employees, even if subsequently rehired. Employees who qualify as “classic” lateral employees under the Public Employees’ Pension Reform Act and are initially hired by the City of San Jose on or after January 1, 2013, are considered Tier 1 employees.

- (a) **COST SHARING.** The City’s cost for the Tier 2 defined benefit plan shall not exceed 50% of the total cost of the Tier 2 defined benefit plan (both normal cost and unfunded liabilities), except as provided herein. Normal cost shall always be split 50/50. In the event an unfunded liability is determined to exist, employees will contribute toward the unfunded liability in increasing increments of 0.33% per year, with the City paying the balance of the unfunded liability, until such time that the unfunded liability is shared 50/50 between the employer and employee.
- (b) **AGE.** The age of eligibility for service retirement shall be 57 for employees in the Police and Fire Retirement Plans and 62 for employees in the Federated Retirement System. Earlier Retirement may be permitted with a reduction in pension benefit by a factor of 7% per year for employees in the Police and Fire Retirement Plan and a reduction in pension benefit by a factor of 5% per year for employees in the Federated Retirement System. An employee is not eligible for a service retirement earlier than the age of 50 for employees in the Police and Fire Retirement Plan or age 55 for employees in the Federated Retirement System. Tier 2 employees shall be eligible for a service retirement after earning five years of retirement service credit.
- (c) **COLA.** Cost of living adjustments, or COLA, shall be equal to the increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI), defined as San Jose – San Francisco – Oakland U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics index, CPI-Urban Consumers, December to December, with the following limitations:
 - 1. For Police and Fire Retirement Plan members, cost of living adjustments applicable to the retirement allowance shall be the lesser of the Consumer Price Index (CPI), or 2.0%.
 - 2. For Federated Retirement System members, cost of living adjustments applicable to the retirement allowance shall be the lesser of CPI or:

- a. 1-10 total years of City service and hired after the effective date of the implementing ordinances of the revised Tier 2: 1.25%
 - b. 1-10 years total years of City service and hired before the effective date of the implementing ordinances of the revised Tier 2: 1.5%
 - c. 11-20 total years of City service: 1.5%
 - d. 21-25 total years of City service: 1.75%
 - e. 26 or more total years of City service: 2.0%
3. The first COLA adjustment will be prorated based on the number of months retired in the first calendar year of retirement.
- (d) **FINAL COMPENSATION.** “Final compensation” shall mean the average annual earned pay of the highest three consecutive years of service. Final compensation shall be base pay only, excluding premium pays or other additional compensation, except members of the Police and Fire Plan whose pay shall include the same premium pays as Tier 1 members.
 - (e) **MAXIMUM ALLOWANCE AND ACCRUAL RATE.** For Police and Fire Plan members, service retirement benefits shall be capped at a maximum of 80% of final compensation for an employee who has 30 or more years of service at the accrual rate contained in the Alternative Pension Reform Settlement Framework approved by City Council on August 25, 2015. For Federated Retirement System members, service retirement benefits shall be capped at a maximum of 70% of final compensation for an employee who has 35 or more years of service at the accrual rate contained in the Alternative Pension Reform Settlement Framework approved by City Council on December 15, 2015, and January 12, 2016.
 - (f) **YEAR OF SERVICE.** An employee will be eligible for a full year of service credit upon reaching 2080 hours of regular time worked (including paid leave, but not including overtime).

Amended at election November 8, 2016

Section 1505-A. Disability Retirements.

- (a) The definition of “disability” shall be that as contained in the San Jose Municipal Code in Sections 3.36.900 and 3.28.1210 as of the date of this measure.
- (b) Each plan member seeking a disability retirement shall have their disability determined by a panel of medical experts appointed by the Retirement Boards.
- (c) The independent panel of medical experts will make their determination based upon majority vote, which may be appealed to an administrative law judge.

Amended at election November 8, 2016

SECTION 1506-A. Supplemental Payments to Retirees.

The Supplemental Retiree Benefit Reserve (“SRBR”) has been discontinued, and the assets returned to the appropriate retirement trust fund. In the event assets are required to be retained in the SRBR, no supplemental payments shall be permitted from that fund without voter approval.

The SRBR will be replaced with a Guaranteed Purchasing Power (GPP) benefit for all Tier 1 retirees. The GPP is intended to maintain the monthly allowance for Tier 1 retirees at 75% of purchasing power of their original pension benefit effective with the date of the retiree’s retirement. The GPP will apply in limited circumstances (for example, when inflation exceeds the COLA for Tier 1 retirees for an extended period of time). Any calculated benefit will be paid annually in February.

Amended at election November 8, 2016

SECTION 1507-A. Retiree Healthcare.

The defined benefit retiree healthcare plan will be closed to new employees as defined by the San Jose Municipal Code in Chapter 3.36, Part 1 and Chapter 3.28, Part 1.

Amended at election November 8, 2016

SECTION 1508-A. Actuarial Soundness (for both pension and retiree healthcare plans).

- (a) In recognition of the interests of the taxpayers and the responsibilities to the plan beneficiaries, all pension and retiree healthcare plans shall be operated in conformance with Article XVI, Section 17 of the California Constitution. This includes but is not limited to:
1. All plans and their trustees shall assure prompt delivery of benefits and related services to participants and their beneficiaries;
 2. All plans shall be subject to an annual actuarial analysis that is publicly disclosed in order to assure the plan has sufficient assets;
 3. All plan trustees shall discharge their duties with respect to the system solely in the interest of, and for the exclusive purposes of providing benefits to participants and their beneficiaries, minimizing employer contributions thereto, and defraying reasonable expenses of administering the system;
 4. All plan trustees shall diversify the investments of the system so as to minimize the risk of loss and maximize the rate of return, unless under the circumstances it is not prudent to do so;
 5. Determine contribution rates on a stated contribution policy, developed by the retirement system boards and;
 6. When investing the assets of the plans, the objective of all plan trustees shall be to maximize the rate of return without undue risk of loss while having proper regard to the funding objectives of the plans and the volatility of the plans’ contributions as a percentage of payroll.

Amended at election November 8, 2016

Section 1509-A. Retirement Contributions.

There shall be no offset to normal cost contribution rates in the event plan funding exceeds 100%. Both the City and employees shall always make the full annual required plan contributions as calculated by the Retirement Board actuaries which will be in compliance with applicable laws and will ensure the qualified status under the Internal Revenue Code.
Amended at election November 8, 2016

Section 1510-A. No Retroactive Defined Retirement Benefit Enhancements.

- (a) Any enhancement to a member's defined retirement benefit adopted on or after January 1, 2017, shall apply only to service performed on or after the operative date of the enhancement and shall not be applied to any service performed prior to the operative date of the enhancement.
- (b) If a change to a member's retirement membership classification or a change in employment results in an enhancement in the retirement formula or defined retirement benefits applicable to that member, except as otherwise provided under the plans as of [effective date of ordinance], that enhancement shall apply only to service performed on or after the effective date of the change and shall not be applied to any service performed prior to the effective date of the change.
- (c) "Operative date" would be the date that any resolution or ordinance implementing the enhancement to a member's defined retirement formula or defined retirement benefit adopted by the City Council becomes effective.

Amended at election November 8, 2016

Section 1511-A. Severability.

This Act shall be interpreted so as to be consistent with all federal and state laws, rules and regulations. The provisions of this Act are severable. If any section, sub-section, sentence or clause ("portion") of this Act is held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a final judgment of a court, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this amendment. The voters hereby declare that this Act, and each portion, would have been adopted irrespective of whether any one or more portions of the Act are found invalid. If any portion of this Act is held invalid as applied to any person or circumstance, such invalidity shall not affect any application of this Act which can be given effect.

Amended at election November 8, 2016