



MEMPHIS FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

Local 1784, International Association of Fire Fighters, AFL-CIO, CLC
President Larry Anthony • Vice President Joe Norman • Sec./Treasurer Matthew Tomek

June 16, 2010

Mayor A.C. Wharton
125 North Main St., Suite 700
Memphis, TN 38103

Dear Mayor Wharton:

I am in receipt of the letter Councilman Strickland has sent requesting that part of the 8% pay raise city employees received over the past five years be rolled back. One reason given was to address the Court judgment of \$57 million found in favor of Memphis City Schools. Although this is a substantial number, not one city employee had anything to do with this. The existing council decided that they would withhold this money. If I recall when this was done, not only the money was withheld but they reduced property taxes by 18 cents. This reduction has caused as much problems as withholding the \$57 million.

We, as labor, do understand that money is tight and hard times are here. Only three months ago, every labor organization in the City of Memphis agreed to hold off on negotiations for one year to help offset the financial situation Memphis faces. Our repayment of good faith in our city leaders is the threat of taking away something we not only earned, but depend on. Let us not forget that our health insurance will also be going up 15% in July.

Every employee of the City of Memphis has a budget to live on. Our budget is not the magnitude of the City's, but we do have to live on what we have. If you take away the resources that we count on, it could cause devastation to a substantial number of your employees. We do not have the option of calling our creditors and telling them that we need our monthly payments lowered because our employer reduced our salary or to just do away with obligation all together.

I ask you not only for the 1600 members I serve but all city employees that this ridiculous suggestion be disposed of immediately.

Sincerely,

Larry Anthony, President
Memphis Fire Fighters Association

Cc: Memphis City Council Members