

ORDINANCE NO. 024-2024

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF PALM BEACH, PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 82 OF THE TOWN CODE OF ORDINANCES RELATING TO PERSONNEL, AT ARTICLE II, EMPLOYEE BENEFITS, DIVISION 2, RETIREMENT SYSTEM; AMENDING SUBDIVISION I, IN GENERAL, BY AMENDING SECTION 82-99, DEFERRED RETIREMENT OPTION PROGRAM FOR FIREFIGHTERS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF PALM BEACH, PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The Code of Ordinances of the Town of Palm Beach is hereby amended at Chapter 82, Personnel; Article II, Employee Benefits; Division 2, Retirement System; III. – Firefighters; by amending Section 82-99 to read as follows:

Sec. 82-99. Deferred retirement option program for firefighters.

* * *

(c) Participation in the DROP.

(1) The date on which participation in the DROP must terminate is within 120 months of the commencement of the election period provided in subsection (b)(1) of this section. For those members who enter to DROP prior to June 1, 2024, the maximum DROP period is 60 months unless extended as provided in subsection (c)(4). For members who enter the DROP on or after June 1, 2024, the maximum DROP period is 96 months. No DROP participant may participate in the DROP for more than 96 months or for any time after 120 months following the date on which the member first reaches normal retirement age or date, unless the member first reached normal retirement age or date prior to the effective date of the ordinance from which this section derives. Notwithstanding the preceding sentence, effective October 1, 2016 for non-bargaining unit members who are participating in the DROP on that date or who enter the DROP after that date, the maximum DROP participation period shall be 60 months unless extended under subsection (c)(4) below, or 96 months on or after June 1, 2024, but such members may continue to participate in the DROP beyond 120 months following the date on which the member first reaches normal retirement age or date. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the provisions of this paragraph providing a maximum DROP period of 96 months shall not apply to bargaining unit firefighters until such time as the 96-month maximum DROP period is implemented through the

collective bargaining process. Effective July 9, 2024, bargaining unit firefighters may continue to participate in the DROP beyond 120 months following the date on which the member first reaches normal retirement age or date.

Section 2. Severability.

If any provision of this Ordinance or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the other provisions or applications of this Ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provisions or applications, and to this end the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby declared severable.

Section 3. Repeal of Ordinances in Conflict.

All other ordinances of the Town of Palm Beach, Florida, or parts thereof which conflict with this or any part of this Ordinance are hereby repealed.

Section 4. Codification.

This Ordinance shall be codified and made a part of the official Code of Ordinances of the Town of Palm Beach.

Section 5. Effective Date.

This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its passage and approval, as provided by law.

PASSED AND ADOPTED in a regular, adjourned session of the Town Council of the Town of Palm Beach on first reading this 11th day of June, 2024, and for second and final reading on this 9th day of July, 2024.

Danielle H. Moore, Mayor

Bobbie D. Lindsay, Town Council President

Lewis S.W. Crampton, Council President Pro Tem

Julie Araskog, Town Council Member

ATTEST:

Edward A. Cooney, Town Council Member

Kelly Churney, Acting Town Clerk

Bridget Moran, Town Council Member