



# City of North Port

## ORDINANCE NO. 2025-06

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NORTH PORT, FLORIDA; AMENDING THE CODE OF THE CITY OF NORTH PORT, FLORIDA, SECTION 2-329 REGARDING DEFERRED RETIREMENT OPTION PLAN; PROVIDING FOR FINDINGS; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, Chapter 2, Article V, Division 6 of the Code of the City of North Port, Florida sets forth the regulations related to pensions for the City of North Port's Firefighters pension plan members; and

**WHEREAS**, The City of North Port recently entered into a collective bargaining agreement with the Suncoast Professional Firefighters and Paramedics, Local No. 2546, I.A.F.F. for 2024 - 2027; and

**WHEREAS**, the collective bargaining agreement affects the City of North Port Firefighters' Pension Fund and provides for a DROP participation period of up to 96 months; and

**WHEREAS**, implementing the changes contained in the collective bargaining agreement requires an amendment to the Code of the City of North Port, Florida relating to the Firefighters' Pension Fund ordinance; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Commission finds that these amendments serve the public health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the City of North Port, Florida.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF NORTH PORT, FLORIDA:**

### **SECTION 1 – FINDINGS**

- 1.01 The above recitals are true and correct and are incorporated in this ordinance by reference.
- 1.02 In accordance with Florida Statutes Section 166.041(4)(a), the City timely posted a business impact estimate on the City's website on or before the date the newspaper published notice of this ordinance's final reading.

### **SECTION 2 – ADOPTION**

- 2.01 Chapter 2 of the Code of the City of North Port, Florida is hereby amended as follows:

**“Chapter 2 – ADMINISTRATION**

...

**ARTICLE V. – EMPLOYEE BENEFITS**

...

**DIVISION. 6. – FIREFIGHTERS PENSIONS**

...

**Sec. 2-329. – Deferred retirement option plan.**

...

*(b) Participation.*

...

(3) Period of participation. A member who elects to participate in the DROP under subsection (b)(2) shall participate in the DROP for a period not to exceed ~~60~~ 96 months beginning at the time his or her election to participate in the DROP first becomes effective. An election to participate in the DROP shall constitute an irrevocable election to resign from the service of the city not later than the date provided for in the previous sentence. Any person who is currently in the DROP on the effective date of the ordinance extending the permissible DROP period provided for in this paragraph may extend his or her DROP participation as provided herein. Any retiree who has retired under normal retirement and who has not previously participated in the DROP and who is re-employed by the city as a firefighter may elect to enter the DROP as provided herein. A member may participate only once.

...”

**SECTION 3 – CONFLICTS**

3.01 In the event of any conflict between the provisions of this ordinance and any other ordinance, in whole or in part, the provisions of this ordinance will prevail to the extent of the conflict.

**SECTION 4 – SEVERABILITY**

4.01 If a court of competent jurisdiction finds that any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or provision of this ordinance is for any reason invalid or unconstitutional, that provision will be deemed a separate, distinct, and independent provision and will not affect the validity of the remaining portions of the ordinance.

**SECTION 5 – CODIFICATION**

5.01 In this ordinance, additions are shown as underlined and deletions as ~~striketrough~~. Any additional codification information and notations appear in *italics*. These editorial notations are not intended to appear in the codified text.

**SECTION 6 – EFFECTIVE DATE**

6.01 This ordinance takes effect immediately upon adoption.

READ BY TITLE ONLY at first reading by the City Commission of the City of North Port, Florida, in public session on February 11, 2025.

ADOPTED by the City Commission of the City of North Port, Florida, on the second and final reading in public session on February 25, 2025.

CITY OF NORTH PORT, FLORIDA

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PHIL STOKES  
MAYOR

ATTEST

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HEATHER FAUST, MMC  
CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND CORRECTNESS

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MICHAEL GOLEN, CPM  
INTERIM CITY ATTORNEY