



City of North Port

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-06

1 **AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NORTH PORT, FLORIDA; AMENDING THE CODE OF THE**
2 **CITY OF NORTH PORT, FLORIDA, SECTION 2-329 REGARDING DEFERRED RETIREMENT**
3 **OPTION PLAN; PROVIDING FOR FINDINGS; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR**
4 **SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**
5

6 **WHEREAS**, Chapter 2, Article V, Division 6 of the Code of the City of North Port, Florida sets forth the
7 regulations related to pensions for the City of North Port's Firefighters pension plan members; and
8

9 **WHEREAS**, The City of North Port recently entered into a collective bargaining agreement with the
10 Suncoast Professional Firefighters and Paramedics, Local No. 2546, I.A.F.F. for 2024 - 2027; and
11

12 **WHEREAS**, the collective bargaining agreement affects the City of North Port Firefighters' Pension Fund
13 and provides for a DROP participation period of up to 96 months; and
14

15 **WHEREAS**, implementing the changes contained in the collective bargaining agreement requires an
16 amendment to the Code of the City of North Port, Florida relating to the Firefighters' Pension Fund
17 ordinance; and
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19 **WHEREAS**, the City Commission finds that these amendments serve the public health, safety, and welfare
20 of the citizens of the City of North Port, Florida.
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22 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF NORTH PORT, FLORIDA:**
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24 **SECTION 1 – FINDINGS**
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- 26 1.01 The above recitals are true and correct and are incorporated in this ordinance by reference.
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- 28 1.02 In accordance with Florida Statutes Section 166.041(4)(a), the City timely posted a business
29 impact estimate on the City’s website on or before the date the newspaper published notice of
30 this ordinance’s final reading.
- 31

32 **SECTION 2 – ADOPTION**
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- 34 2.01 Chapter 2 of the Code of the City of North Port, Florida is hereby amended as follows:
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37 **“Chapter 2 – ADMINISTRATION**

38 . . .

39 **ARTICLE V. – EMPLOYEE BENEFITS**

40 . . .

41 **DIVISION. 6. – FIREFIGHTERS PENSIONS**

42 . . .

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

44 . . .

45 (b) *Participation.*

46 . . .

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

59 . . .”

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61 **SECTION 3 – CONFLICTS**

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63 3.01 In the event of any conflict between the provisions of this ordinance and any other ordinance, in
64 whole or in part, the provisions of this ordinance will prevail to the extent of the conflict.

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66 **SECTION 4 – SEVERABILITY**

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68 4.01 If a court of competent jurisdiction finds that any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase,
69 or provision of this ordinance is for any reason invalid or unconstitutional, that provision will be
70 deemed a separate, distinct, and independent provision and will not affect the validity of the
71 remaining portions of the ordinance.

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73 **SECTION 5 – CODIFICATION**

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75 5.01 In this ordinance, additions are shown as underlined and deletions as ~~striketrough~~. Any
76 additional codification information and notations appear in *italics*. These editorial notations are
77 not intended to appear in the codified text.

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79 **SECTION 6 – EFFECTIVE DATE**

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81 6.01 This ordinance takes effect immediately upon adoption.

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

86
87 ADOPTED by the City Commission of the City of North Port, Florida, on the second and final reading in
88 public session on February 28, 2025.

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CITY OF NORTH PORT, FLORIDA

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PHIL STOKES
MAYOR

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ATTEST

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HEATHER FAUST, MMC
CITY CLERK

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APPROVED AS TO FORM AND CORRECTNESS

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MICHAEL GOLEN, CPM
INTERIM CITY ATTORNEY

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