



# NYC Police Pension Fund



# THE PENSION PRESS

Volume 4 Number 2

A Newsletter Published for the Active & Retired Members of the New York Police Pension Fund

## CHANGES IN MILITARY BUYBACK LONGEVITY CREDIT

The NYC Law Department has informed the Police Pension Fund that all military time bought back under Chapter 548 is eligible and will count towards full pensionability of longevity. Previously, if a member retired for service with eighteen years police service and two years military service, that member was retired and finalized without benefit of the 5th and 10th year longevity increments being included in their final average salary (FAS). Now that member will be finalized with the longevity attained at the 20 year level included in pensionable earnings for their FAS and members whose military buyback brought them past their twenty- fifth year will receive full longevity (all four increments) in their pensionable earnings used to compute FAS. All affected members who received interim finalization without pensionable longevity will have their pensions adjusted by this office. ■



## ANNUAL STATEMENT UPDATE

The Annuity Statements for 2004/2005 were distributed by the Police Pension Fund to Headquarters, Payroll section on July 20<sup>th</sup> and as a result, the second annual Police Pension Fund Help Center was activated on July 27<sup>th</sup>. Questions from our members regarding up to date beneficiary changes as well as the 50% Additional and ITHP deductions, dominated the call center lines for the two weeks that followed. Some members did not receive their Annuity Statements because of Tier 1 status were on a leave of absence, had reinstatement issues or are in undercover assignments. Undercover members will be receiving their statements in mid-October and Uniformed Members of Service on leave may check MELD for their statements. In 2007, your annual pension statement will be sent out in the first quarter of each calendar year. Any member who did not receive a statement, may call Membership Services (212) 693-5850 for a copy. ■

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## POLICE PENSION FUND WELCOMES NEW RECRUITS

**O**n July 10, 2006 Queens College hosted the hiring of our new recruits. With blue skies and a warm sun as the backdrop, over 1600 young men and women realized their dreams as they were sworn in by Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly and Mayor Michael Bloomberg to join the newest class of the New York City Police Department.

As personal information was gathered from some of the recruits, 1,600 anxious faces had their future mapped out for them by representatives from Police Headquarters, the Police Academy and the Police Pension Fund. The Pension Fund was on hand to sign our newest members into the Fund and to stress the benefits of making contributions to the pension system, as well as to inform them of other benefits membership provides. Most important to all members is naming a beneficiary and updating this information as the member's circumstances change through lifetime experience. There are a number of life circumstances that are determining factors which would precipitate making that change. As your time on the job turns from months to years, you will be mindful of the benefits of the pension system as this will one day be a primary source of income. The theory about taking numerous pension loans throughout your career is no longer viable. Twenty years goes by in the blink of an eye and the more loans you take the greater a shortage you will create in your account. The last thing you'll want to think about when you have your twenty in is being short thousands of dollars. A shortage can also occur if you cease contributing at any time during your career. If a member has over 20 years of service and has an excess, then application may be made for a refund, however, if no request is made by the time of retirement, the excess will be factored in and your pension allowance will be increased for life.

There is so much information to retain that it's almost impossible to process and that is why we have made the pension press available on-line along with a number of other pertinent pension topics to keep all members, active and retired, abreast of newsworthy pension items. Remember, the Police Pension Fund is **YOUR** Fund and is there for all your pension needs as well as to provide sound advice for all future contributions. Contact us directly if you have any questions, no matter how insignificant you think they might be. Every question is important. Congratulations to all our recruits on becoming members of the greatest police department in the world. Please stay safe and enjoy the ride. ■



*NYPD Recruits*

## Pataki Signs Health Coverage Bill for First Responders

On August 14, 2006, Governor George Pataki was joined by a number of legislators and Police union leaders at the site of the World Trade Center to sign three pieces of landmark legislation that will make it easier for ground zero workers to get health care coverage and disability pay.

The new laws for ailing World Trade Center first responders waives the two year deadline for worker compensation claims, re-defines their death benefits as line of duty for their survivors, and permits them to get additional health and pension benefits if they get ill after retirement.

Pataki specifically invoked the memory of the late NYPD Detective James Zadroga who died earlier this year from what a Coroner concluded was respiratory disease related to his time at Ground Zero. Pataki said some of the reforms would also apply to private sector workers on duty at Ground Zero.



## Social Security: 2006 Social Security Benefit Changes

**B**eginning in January 2006, a 4.1 cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) was applied to all Social Security and Supplemental Social Security Income (SSI) payments. This means that the average monthly benefit for a retired worker in 2006 is \$1,002 (up from \$963 in 2005); the average monthly benefit for disabled workers in 2006 is \$939 (up from \$902); and the average monthly benefit for a widowed parent and two children in 2006 is \$2,074 (up from \$1,992).

Other Social Security changes in 2006 also are worth noting. For example, a worker now pays Social Security tax on up to \$94,200 of annual income (up from \$90,000). Of course, the Medicare tax of 1.45 percent applies to all earnings. A worker earns one credit of coverage after paying taxes on \$970 in earnings (up from \$920). As always, four credits may be earned each year and a person generally needs 40 credits to be eligible for retirement benefits.

Beneficiaries who are under their full retirement age can now earn up to \$12,480 annually (up from \$12,000) without any reduction in their benefits. There is no earnings test once you reach your full retirement age. To determine your full retirement age, or to learn about other changes, visit [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov).





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**Presented by: Joe Maccone**

*Former Commanding Officer of the Pension Section*



To ensure seating, please call the PBA office, 212-298-9248 or 9249 or you can email us at: [rcoll@nycpba.org](mailto:rcoll@nycpba.org) or [mdecaro@nycpba.org](mailto:mdecaro@nycpba.org). We will need the following information: Name, rank, command, home phone and whether or not your spouse will be attending.

**PBA & SBA MEMBERS FREE**  
**\$25.00** FOR MEMBERS OF OTHER RANKS — PAYABLE AT THE DOOR

## FINALIZATION UPDATE:

As of September 2006 the following ranks have been FINALIZED:

Rank	Retirement Date
<b>Police Officer</b>	Up to June 2004
<b>Detective</b>	Up to February 14, 2004
<b>Sergeant</b>	Up to June 2003
<b>Lieutenant</b>	Up to June 15, 2003
<b>Captain and Above</b>	Up to October 31, 2003

\*Military Buy Back Chapter 548-adjustment for Longevity - completed.