



D A L L A S
POLICE & FIRE
PENSION SYSTEM



**DPFP Statement on Mayor Rawlings' Personal Attacks Against Chairman Flynn
April 20, 2017**

Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings today issued a constituent letter criticizing Texas House Pensions Committee Chairman Dan Flynn and HB 3158. Dallas Police & Fire Pension System Board Chairman Sam Friar issued the following statement:

“If nothing else, the Mayor is consistent. He has verbally attacked police and firefighters, the pension board and the Texas Legislature. Now he is criticizing the chairman of the House Pensions Committee. In the Mayor’s eyes, only the city is pure. But once again, the facts prove him wrong.

“The Mayor is engaging in ‘fake math.’ The city’s liberal financial assumptions appear to be intentionally misleading. No other financial review supports the city’s fantasyland projection that the Mayor’s proposed changes would fully fund the Plan. The Mayor’s words and actions are consistent with our belief that he is willing — and possibly attempting — to kill HB 3158 and the current pension Plan in order to start a new one.

The Mayor’s claim that HB 3158 is a ‘taxpayer bailout’ is preposterous given the proposed solution’s funding sources. Under the current bill, contributions from pension fund members would increase by 91 percent on average, or \$1.2 billion over 30 years. The members’ benefits would also be cut by \$1.4 billion, making the total proposed burden on first responders approximately \$2.6 billion. Many active members will suffer more than 50 percent benefit reductions by age 80. In addition, the Mayor wants to ‘claw back’ \$700 million of previously earned benefits from police and firefighter retirees.

“Under HB 3158, contributions from the city over 30 years would increase only \$626 million, or 11 percent. The bulk of the financial burden falls clearly on the backs of 10,000 Dallas first responders and family members, while the city’s much smaller share comes from a population of 1 million people.

“The Mayor’s continual finger pointing and bad-faith negotiating are damaging the city’s credibility and public safety — as Dallas first responders leave and retire at unprecedented rates. The Mayor’s actions endanger law-abiding residents by making our streets less safe. It’s time for the Mayor to quit digging a deeper hole. HB 3158 provides a long-term solution to the pension problem and secures a reasonable retirement for our dedicated first responders.”