



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
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MAYOR

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MAYOR BROWN, AFSCME ANNOUNCE AGREEMENT ON RETIREMENT REFORM

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. Tuesday, May 21, 2013 — Mayor Alvin Brown today announced a tentative agreement on retirement reform with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) union. AFSCME represents approximately 2,000 general employees who serve in clerical, technical, and administrative positions.

“Our general employees perform important work for our community,” said Mayor Brown. “Working together with AFSCME, we have achieved retirement reform that will help ensure financial sustainability for both taxpayers and employees.”

Later this week, the City has meetings on the subject of retirement reform with three other general employee unions: the Jacksonville Supervisors Association (JSA), the Laborers International Union of North America (LIUNA), and the Communications Workers of America (CWA).

If the new retirement benefits are applied to employees in all four unions, the total savings would amount to nearly \$600 million over 30 years.

Mayor Brown’s retirement reform agreement with AFSCME has two main provisions. First, it will modify retirement benefits for new employees hired on or after October 1, 2013. Second, current AFSCME employees will contribute more to the pension plan but retain their current benefits.

This retirement reform agreement marks the second occasion on which AFSCME has worked with Mayor Brown and the City of Jacksonville to achieve a positive result for taxpayers and city employees. In 2012, the City ratified a new three year contract with AFSCME on wages and non-retirement benefits. The contract, which covers the period from October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2015, will save taxpayers approximately \$1.3 million annually, or nearly \$4 million total.

“This retirement reform agreement is even more proof that anything is possible when we work together,” said Mayor Brown. “Once again, we used a spirit of teamwork to accomplish retirement reform that provides financial sustainability for employees and taxpayers.”

This agreement now goes to the AFSCME membership and the Jacksonville City Council for ratification. If ratified, it would take effect on October 1, 2013. Attached is a side-by-side analysis comparing the current system of retirement benefits with the modified benefits that will be in place for new AFSCME employees hired on or after October 1, 2013.

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