

# Prince George's County Council

## Agenda Item Summary

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**Meeting Date:** 3/4/2008  
**Reference No.:** CB-001-2008  
**Draft No.:** 1  
**Proposer(s):** County Executive  
**Sponsor(s):** Campos, Exum, Turner, Dernoga, Knotts, Bland, Dean, Olson  
**Item Title:** An Act approving by legislative act an amendment to the Police Pension Plan regarding the addition of line of duty death benefits

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**Drafter:** Kathleen H. Canning, Office of Law  
**Resource Personnel:** Donald E. Bridgeman, Director

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### LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

<b>Date Presented:</b>	1/22/2008	<b>Executive Action:</b>	4/8/2008 S
<b>Committee Referral:</b>	1/22/2008 - PST	<b>Effective Date:</b>	5/27/2008
<b>Committee Action:</b>	2/14/2008 - FAV		
<b>Date Introduced:</b>	3/4/2008		
<b>Public Hearing:</b>	4/1/2008 - 10:00 AM		
<b>Council Action (1)</b>	4/1/2008 - ENACTED		
<b>Council Votes:</b>	MB:A, WC:A, SHD:A, TD:A, CE:A, TK:A, EO:A, IT:A		
<b>Pass/Fail:</b>	P		
<b>Remarks:</b>	Retroactive to 12/1/2002		

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### AFFECTED CODE SECTIONS:

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### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

#### **PUBLIC SAFETY & TRANSPORTATION**

**Date 2/14/2008**

Committee Vote: Favorable, 4-0, (In favor: Councilmembers Dernoga, Campos, Exum and Olson.)

This bill will amend the police pension plan to add a line of duty death benefit to surviving spouses. The benefit is payable to the surviving spouse of a participant who dies in the line of duty. This bill is required to comply with Section 16-231(a) of the County Code which provides that any amendment to a pension plan to bind the County Council to finance or make contributions must be approved by legislative act of the County Council.

Under the current Police Pension Plan, an officer who dies before retirement leaves no benefit other than a return of the officer's contributions plus interest accrued. The County Executive states that the County owes a debt of gratitude to all uniformed employees in public safety classes of work including those in the Police Department who pay the ultimate sacrifice of giving their lives in the line of duty.

According to the Office of Human Resources Management (OHRM) the proposed new benefit is applicable to two surviving spouses of Police Officers who have died in the line of duty since December 1, 2002.

The Office of Law has reviewed this legislation and find it to be in proper legislative form with no legal impediments to its enactment.

OHRM's Pension and Investments Administration states that after adjusting for prior payments of the participant employees' contributions and earned interest, the total combined retroactive death benefit owed to the two surviving spouses, is \$3,088,187.30. The total combined retroactive death benefit payments and future monthly benefit payments from the Police Pension Fund are estimated at \$3,234,322.09.

The total proposed spousal death benefit payments are roughly equivalent to the amount the two officers would have received over comparable periods of time if they had not been killed in the line of duty and had reached the 20-year retirement eligibility threshold.

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**BACKGROUND INFORMATION/FISCAL IMPACT:**

(Includes reason for proposal, as well as any unique statutory requirements)

This legislation adds a line of duty death benefit to surviving spouses in the Police Pension Plan.

This is a new benefit for participants in the Police Pension Plan. Under the current Police Pension Plan, a participant who dies before retirement currently leaves no benefit other than a return of employee contributions plus interest.

This legislation is required pursuant to Section 16-231(a) of the Prince George's County Code which provides, in part, that such pension plans may not be amended to bind the County to finance or make contributions to such pension plans, unless such amendments are approved by legislative act of the County Council.

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**CODE INDEX TOPICS:**

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**INCLUSION FILES:**

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