



Shreveport Police Officer's Association

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September 24, 2021

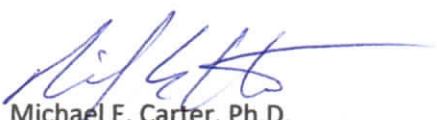
Honorable City Council Members
505 Travis Street
Shreveport, Louisiana 71101

We are writing to you on behalf of the Shreveport Police Officers Association. We have recently been told, without forewarning, that the City of Shreveport, Health Care Trust Fund Board has voted to raise our health insurance premiums by 5%. In fact, after face-to-face meetings with BC/BS representatives, the family plan was raised by 30% (235.00 bi-monthly to 305.00 bi-monthly). This is not only unacceptable, it is inconceivable. In a year with unprecedented sales tax increases and federal infusion of Covid funds we continued uninterrupted front-line services to the Citizens of Shreveport. This is an insult to those that serve during one of the most dangerous times in our history.

In 2020 this Council refused to vote on a minimal pay proposal, reducing it to a mere 4%. Now, the entirety of that raise is consumed with this one health care premium increase for a family of four. We have been advised; the premiums will continue to increase for the next three years.

We have lost Police Officers in record numbers. They continue to walk out of the Shreveport Police Department on a monthly basis. When will this Council make the financial decisions to ensure retention of highly trained Police Officers? This premium increase is as untimely as anything we have ever seen in our history. The deductibles listed on formal printouts are ridiculous compared to base salaries of Police Officers. Honestly, it is as if this City wants to eliminate an entire Department. A deductible of 4,000 annually up to 22,000 annually when the gross salary for a new Police Officer is 35,000.00. This must be one of the worst decisions we have seen from this City in decades. Until the recent Academy class graduated this month, we as a department were 123 Officers vacant. It will take several months for this class to complete field training. So, you will continue to operate in the same capacity until they are ready to operate alone. By then, you are likely to have lost more than 13 more Officers as you have with each class graduated for the last four years.

The Shreveport Police Officers Association is requesting the Shreveport City Council to vote against the HCTFB premium increases. We ask for a unanimous vote to reject this unaffordable health care and prevent the harm it will do to SPOA families. Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.


Michael E. Carter, Ph.D.
President, SPOA