

December 5, 2013

Mr. L. John Van Norden
Deputy Corporation Counsel
550 Main Street
Hartford, CT 06103

Via Hand Delivery and Electronic Mail

Dear Mr. Van Norden:

I am writing in my capacity as the elected employee member of the City's Pension Commission, a position created by the City Charter that gives our employee members of the Municipal Employees Retirement Fund a voice in the oversight and administration of our pension program.

A proposed Ordinance is currently before the Court of Common Council as an agenda item for this coming Monday's Council meeting, that would increase the contribution to the pension fund for non-bargaining unit employees.

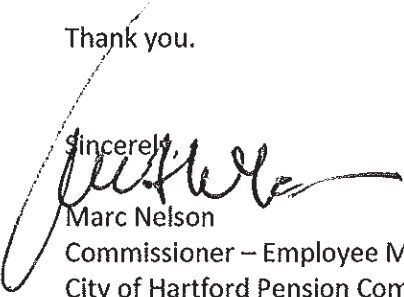
As part of the legislative process, a Public Hearing was held by Council on June 17, 2013. Subsequent to that Public Hearing, substantive and wide-ranging changes were made to the proposed Ordinance which, in my opinion, should cause a new hearing to be held so as to afford the public an opportunity to comment.

This is important legislation which affects the rights and benefits of a significant number of employee members. The requirement that such hearings be held is not discretionary or pro forma, it is an essential component of the process that must be employed in order to result in an Ordinance that can withstand legal challenge.

I respectfully request that your office review these substantive changes, specifically those that appear in draft changes dated November 25, 2013 and December 9, 2013, and provide the needed guidance for our legislative body that the item must be rescheduled for a new Public Hearing before a vote on passage may be scheduled.

Thank you.

Sincerely,


Marc Nelson
Commissioner – Employee Member
City of Hartford Pension Commission

cc: Hon. Pedro Segarra, Mayor; Hon. Adam Cloud, Treasurer & Members of the Pension Commission
Hon. John Bazzano, Town & City Clerk