

**The Baltimore City Retired Fire Officers and Fire Fighters Association
Retirees Bereavement Benefits**

Spouse or Beneficiary should contact:

410-396-3086 (Shift Commanders Office)

NOTE: If a pension check is received after the death of a retiree, you can keep the check dated the month that the retiree passed, any other checks will have to be returned.

When the retiree passes away, Spouse/Beneficiary, eligible children will contact the Fire & Police Employees' Retirement system by telephone so adjustments can be made to the pension. The BFPEPS will then send a letter to the spouse/Beneficiary requesting the following documents:

- **Death certificate**
- **Birth certificate of spouse**
- **Marriage certificate**
- **Social Security Card of the survivor**
- **Federal and State tax withholding forms**
- **Voided checking account check for direct deposit**
- An email address is not required, but it should be added to aid in timely communication in case additional info is needed.

Office 410-497-7929 - FAX 1-888-443-7008

Baltimore City Fire Department Death benefit	\$7,000.
Managerial & Professional Society, Inc. (MAPS)	\$10,000.

Baltimore City Fire Dept. Insurance Ms. Briggs 410-396-5830 or 5831 **select 2 then 3**
humanresources.baltimorecity.gov margaret.briggs@baltimorecity.gov

When contacting Baltimore City benefits please follow up your conversation with an email to them so you have proof that you contacted them, get the name of the person you talked with, keep a record of the conversation!

If you are divorced and you don't change your Beneficiary, your original spouse could possibly receive the Baltimore City Death Benefit and Pension. Call Met life to check or change your beneficiary 1-866-492-6983 this is an automated system, easy to use.

If your original beneficiary has passed away and is not updated before your death the \$7000 life insurance through Met life will be paid to your estate!

Health Insurance –

When the Retiree passes, the family must determine from where the retiree was obtaining health insurance. The Retiree may have been actively employed and using that companies insurance. They may also have had other employment that enabled them to have coverage from the State, the military, Steelworkers or other union benefits. The spouse themselves may also have be/been a Baltimore City employee/retiree and eligible for active/retiree benefits on their own.

What follows presumes the retiree alone was receiving their health insurance from the City of Baltimore.

When the Retiree passes, and after the family notifies the pension plan, the pension plan will determine if there are survivors or dependents who are eligible for continued health insurance. There are many reasons why the current spouse/dependents might not be eligible to continue obtaining health insurance from the City. These include that marital status, the original retirement option, domestic relations orders and the age of and circumstances of dependent children.

Presuming the survivor was covered by the City's health insurance prior to the retiree's death and the survivor was under 65 years old, there will be a loss of health insurance. This is why prompt notification to the pension system is critical. Until the pension system determines who if anyone is an eligible survivor the benefits office cannot act to reinstate the health insurance. Do not delay in notifying the pension system of the retiree's death.

If the survivor was over 65, covered by the City's health insurance prior the retiree's death, and an eligible survivor, there will likely be a temporary loss of health insurance. Use your Medicare Card until this gets reinstated/backdated and then file for reimbursement to your MAPD plan.

Regardless of the situation you will likely get a letter stating you are cancelled and another letter offering COBRA. The important thing to find out at that moment if whether you are an eligible spouse or dependent based on pension system. Presuming you are and presuming the City Health insurance is you best option, contact Employee Benefits. The information you need to review is in the Open Enrollment Book.

You have to be a Dues paying **member in good standing**, in order for the Spouse/Beneficiary to receive the following Benefits;

Retired Fire Officers and Fire Fighters Association	\$1000.	443-324-2531	Charlie Williams
Baltimore City Fire Fighters, Local 734	\$2500.	443-865-2550	John Burke
		443-685-0165	Jennifer Muth
Baltimore City Fire Officers, Local 964	\$2000.	410-458-3623	Dave Goldman

Telephone Numbers:

Baltimore City Fire & Police Pension System	410-497-7929
MECU Credit Union	410-752-8313
Baltimore City Employees Health Insurance	410-396-5830
Vulcan Blazers	410-664-9726 or 410-977-6784

MECU Credit Union, the Spouse /Beneficiary will need a copy of the Death Certificate.

1. Beneficiary must complete Beneficiary claim that enables them to withdraw any funds on deposit or to keep the shares, which are on deposit with the Credit Union by becoming a member of the Credit Union.

Veterans Benefits, United States Department of Veterans Affairs – 1.800.698.2411

1. Spouse will need the Following:
2. Copy of service discharge DD 214
3. Social Security Number of Deceased
4. Death Certificate
5. Beneficiary will complete application for dependency and indemnity compensation
6. Or death pension by Widow or Child (VA form 21-534)

Social Security District Office - Spouse / Beneficiary will need the following:

1. Copy of Marriage Certificate
2. Copy of Death Certificate
3. Social Security numbers for the widow and all children

**If you have any questions or concerns call Charlie Williams at – 443-324-2531 (cell)
443-402-1763 (home)
Recording Secretary Dave Franz at – 410-499-5638 (cell)
Pension System Trustee Ton Nosek at – 410-499-5441 (cell)**

Updated: February 10, 2023