



CITY OF CHICAGO • OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



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**CITY COUNCIL APPROVES COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS WITH  
FIREFIGHTERS AND PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYEES UNIONS**

**CHICAGO** – The City Council today approved the collective bargaining agreements for the Chicago Firefighters Union Local 2 and the Public Safety Employees Union Unit II. The contracts ratified by the membership of the two bargaining units and approved by the City Council comes on the heels of agreements with the unions representing the Police Sergeants, Police Lieutenants, and Police Captains, which were passed in July.

"Our public safety workers have been on the front lines of a crisis that is entirely without precedent in our city," said Mayor Lightfoot. "And while Chicago is experiencing significant financial impact due to the unprecedented COVID-19 outbreak, we are proud that City Council has ratified agreements with the Chicago Firefighters Union Local 2 and Public Safety Employees Union Unit II to ensure that our first responders receive the fair wages and benefits they deserve while still being judicious with taxpayer resources."

Covering more than 5,000 firefighter and paramedics, the Local 2 contract covers the time period July 2017 through June 2021, and will give members of the Chicago Fire Department raises in line with those awarded to other public safety units while saving the City approximately \$10 million due to a number of reforms, which include requiring active members to contribute an additional 1.5% of their salaries towards health care costs. While preserving eligibility for retiree health care at age 55, the new agreement requires future retirees ages 55 to 60 to contribute 3% and those ages 60 to 62 to contribute 1.5% of their retirement annuity toward their benefit.

"The Chicago Fire Fighters Union and the City of Chicago have come to an agreement, which was ratified today by the City Council, after a long three plus years in negotiations. It's been a long road having been through two Mayors and two Executive Boards during this time," said Jim Tracy, President of Chicago Fire Fighters Union Local 2. "I believe we have come to a fair and equitable agreement for our members, who have gone beyond the call of duty during this pandemic, in



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which we lost two brothers, Mario Araujo and Edward Singleton. After more than three years, this agreement will give our members their due benefits. We will be back in negotiations in March 2021 to continue our fight to maintain our hard fought for benefits, and continue to work for better working conditions and benefits.”

“With these agreements, we are demonstrating our commitment to our first responders that keep our City safe,” said Ald. Susan Sadlowski Garza, (10th Ward), Chair of the Committee on Workforce Development. “These contracts ensure that we remain a city for workers.”

Also passed today by the City Council was the contract for Public Safety Employees Union Unit II, whose members include more than 2,000 non-sworn public safety employees such as crossing guards, traffic control aides, OEMC call center operators and more. Represented by both SEIU Local 73 and IBEW Local 21, the members will receive salary increases through 2022 identical to the increases negotiated with the city’s other civilian bargaining units.

“These contract agreements are not only a win for all of Chicagoans but also the brave men and women of the Chicago Fire Department and our non-sworn public safety employees,” said Ald. Chris Taliaferro, (29th Ward), Chair of the Public Safety Committee.

The new contract will also increase the salary cap for healthcare contribution to \$130,000 by the end of 2020. Additional reforms include changes to compensatory time, sick leave benefits for part time employees and doubling the probationary period for members from six months to one year.

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