

# A LETTER FROM BRIAN LUCIANO

President of the Virginia Beach Police Benevolent Association

Dear friends and neighbors,

Did you know that Virginia Beach is one of the safest cities of its size in the country? We're larger than Atlanta with about a fifth of the amount of crime.

There are many reasons for this but **the biggest reason is the Virginia Beach Police Department.**

Having served on the job for 17 years, and now serving as president of the Virginia Beach Police Benevolent Association, I know first-hand that this is a police department we can all be proud of, and that these are brave men and women who are proud to protect, serve and be a part of our community.

**But now one thing that Virginia Beach has done correctly for so long – recruiting and retaining high-quality law enforcement professionals – is in serious jeopardy.**

Promises made to these dedicated officers are about to be broken.

These broken promises will have negative consequences not only on the officers and their families, but on everyone who lives, works and plays in Virginia Beach.

**The Virginia Beach City Council is now on the verge of weakening and raising the cost of the benefits promised to our veteran police officers and firefighters when they were recruited all those years ago.**

Simply put, these increases of the cost of insurance premiums and of the out-of-pocket deductibles amount to a pay cut. In addition, **raising the required minimum years of service to qualify for full retirement from 25 years to 30 years without "grandfathering" those nearing the end of their careers** can only be described as failing to keep ones promise.

**The police haven't had a real raise in nearly a decade. Meanwhile, the City Council continues to explore expensive projects (light rail, sports arenas, etc.) giving no thought to the added responsibilities and dangers that will be faced by those who will have to police them.**

Friends, we need your help.

Let's make it clear to our City Council members that we stand with our city's police officers.

Call the mayor's office at 385-4581.

Go to City Council meetings.

If you agree with me, please make your feelings known.

We want to keep Virginia Beach safe and prosperous. That means staying competitive to recruit the best and brightest. **And it means the city keeping its promise to Virginia Beach's finest.**

Sincerely,

*Brian R. Luciano*

Brian Luciano, *President of the VBPBA*

*P.S. If you have any questions, you can reach me at [vabeachpba@gmail.com](mailto:vabeachpba@gmail.com).*

*Thank you!*



THIS AD IS AUTHORIZED BY THE VIRGINIA BEACH POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION