



International Brotherhood of Police Officers

A DIVISION OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

May 28, 2009

The Honorable Shirley Franklin
Mayor
City of Atlanta
55 Trinity Avenue
Atlanta, GA 30303

1776 Peachtree Street, NW
Suite 415 North
Atlanta, GA 30309

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Dear Mayor Franklin:

I am writing today on behalf of Atlanta's thousands of former and current law enforcement officers to request that you hold a public hearing on the matter of officers injured in the line of duty who are denied adequate medical treatment and services because of decisions made by the city's workers' compensation system.

I am prompted to do so by the city's deplorable treatment of gravely injured officers—Ryan Phinney, Pat Cocciolone, J.J. Biello, Bob Buffington, and Richard Williams—whose lives were forever altered as victims of crimes suffered while protecting and defending the lives and property of Atlanta citizens. These officers suffer again today as victims of the city's workers' compensation system, which has denied them the vital drugs, necessary surgeries, oxygen tanks, and wheelchair repairs that allow these heroes to live with dignity.

These officers—four of whom are paralyzed and in wheelchairs, and one whom suffers from brain damage—sacrificed so much to allow others to live in a safer community. They deserve the open forum of a public hearing where they can relate to you the challenges they face every day just to survive and the importance to their survival of having a just system for processing their workers' compensation claims.

Please schedule a hearing and give these heroes the dignity and respect they deserve.

Sincerely,

David J. Holway
National President

