



INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF POLICE OFFICERS
LOCAL 447S
PITTSFIELD POLICE SUPERIOR OFFICERS UNION
39 Allen Street
Pittsfield, MA 01201

July 20, 2022

Mayor Linda Tyer
City of Pittsfield
70 Allen St.
Pittsfield, MA

Mayor Tyer,

Since the U.S. Federal government's American Rescue Plans Act of 2021 released \$40 million in funds to the City of Pittsfield, we have been following news of how this money is being distributed with interest. The U.S. Treasury Department in their overview of this Act notes that the funds "may be used to provide premium pay to eligible workers performing essential work during the pandemic." The job of Emergency Response workers is one of several listed as eligible. As of April 2022, over 36 cities and towns within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts have rightfully allocated a portion of their ARPA funds to their First Responders (Police, Fire, and EMS) in their communities due to their duties during this unprecedented time of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We had hoped that our service for the City of Pittsfield would also be noted and honored in a similar way by a disbursement of funds to the men and women of the Pittsfield Police Department who continued their necessary duties and service to the City without interruption since the beginning of the pandemic. At times, the high risk of infection that could have crippled the department and our ability to respond to calls for emergency services. Beginning in February 2020, our duties put our health, both physical & mental, at great stress, *especially* before the development of a vaccine. Many department members contracted COVID-19 through work and also infected their families. City Hall had closed upon your Emergency Declaration in March 2020 and did not fully open back up until well over a year later on June 1, 2021. The majority of City employees were able to stay home, like a large amount of those in the private sector, and avoid the increased risk that we faced daily.

After watching the City's distribution of ARPA funds over the past several months, it's been made clear that your administration has decided that the Pittsfield Police Department will not be receiving even a small amount. As we continue to see how these funds are being distributed, in many cases both in eyebrow raising amounts and recipients, we can remain silent no longer.

We are asking for the City of Pittsfield to acknowledge the members of the department who have served honorably, at great risk, during this pandemic. We are asking for an amount of \$3000.00 per sworn Pittsfield Patrol & Superior Officer, comparable to the amounts received by First Responders in other cities and towns within the Commonwealth. We hope that you will agree with us on this issue and do right by all members of the Pittsfield Police Department.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew Hill". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Matthew" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Hill".

Matthew Hill

President, IBPO #447S Police Supervisors

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas J. Bowler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Thomas" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Bowler".

Thomas J. Bowler

President, IBPO #447 Police Patrol Officers

CC: Pittsfield City Council

Pittsfield Police Chief Michael Wynn

Pittsfield ARPA Advisory & Oversight Council

Michael Clancy, Esq NAGE/IBPO

Shawn Kearney, IBPO Representative