



CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS
 POLICE & FIRE RETIREMENT SYSTEM
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 ISSUE A

The Retirement Register

When must a member retire?

There is no compulsory retirement age under the Retirement System. However, the following credited service caps are in effect:

<i>Covered Group</i>	<i>Date of Hire</i>	<i>Credited Service Limit</i>
Firefighters	Prior to 7/1/92	40 yrs. if electing a 2.5% multiplier (100%) 33 yrs. 9 mos. if electing a 2.8% multiplier (94.5%)
	7/1/92 – 01/09/12 01/10/12 and after	32 yrs. 2 mos. (90%) 32 yrs. 3 mos. to 45 yrs. depending on multiplier selection (90%)
Fire Chief	Any	33 yrs. 9 mos. (94.5%)
Police Officers and Sergeants	Prior to 3/9/95	35 yrs. 9 mos. (100%)
	3/9/95-6/30/01 7/1/01-12/19/11 12/20/11 and after	31 yrs. 3 mos. (87.5%) 28 yrs. 7 mos. (80%) 28 yrs. 8 mo. to 40 yrs. depending on multiplier selection (80%)
Police Command	Prior to 7/1/01	35 yrs. 9 mos. (100%)
	7/1/01-12/19/11 12/20/11 and after	28 yrs. 7 mos. (80%) 28 yrs. 8 mo. to 40 yrs. depending on multiplier selection (80%)
Police Chief/Deputy Police Chief	Any	35 yrs. 9 mos. (100%)

Are There Any Post-Retirement Benefits?

An escalator is a guaranteed fixed amount by which your monthly pension will be increased after the negotiated waiting period. Listed below is a summary of the supplemental benefit.

<i>Eligibility</i>	
<i>Covered Group</i>	<i>Termination Date</i>
Fire Chief	On or after January 1, 2016
Deputy Fire Chief	On or after October 6, 2016
Firefighters	On or after July 1, 2007
Police Chief or Deputy Police Chief	On or after January 1, 2016
Police Officers and Sergeants	On or after December 17, 2008
Police Command	On or after February 19, 2010
<i>Annual Escalator Increase</i>	
Firefighters, Fire Chief or Deputy Fire Chief	1.5% after 2 years of retirement
Police Chief, Deputy Police Chief, Police Command, Police Officers & Sgts.	1.0% after 5 years of retirement

New Retirees

The Trustees and staff of the Police & Fire Retirement System are pleased to congratulate the following new retirees:

Aaron Draper*	(Fire)	8/1/2024	David Noorman	(Fire)	9/4/2024
Matthew Veldman*	(Police)	8/1/2024	Curtis Satterthwaite	(Police)	9/5/2024
Kelli Braate	(Police)	8/3/2024	Chad Preston	(Police)	9/22/2024
Timothy Johnston	(Police)	8/3/2024	Amanda Linklater*	(Police)	10/1/2024
Nathan Fynewever	(Police)	8/21/2024	Kristen Rogers	(Police)	10/5/2024
Harvey Barker III	(Police)	8/30/2024	Casey Spielmaker	(Fire)	11/30/2024

*Deferred member

In Memory of Departed Friends

Esther VanHammen*	6/25/2024	Dennis Dykhouse	8/4/2024
Bonnie Myers*	6/26/2024	Dorothy Knapp*	9/6/2024
Kathleen Haagsma*	6/29/2024	Peter Kemme**	9/21/2024
Donald Lesher	7/3/2024	Bernard Clemens, Jr.	9/18/2024
William Brzozowski	7/4/2024	Danny Noorman	10/23/2024
Mary Ann Johnson*	7/21/2024	Mary Schuur*	11/1/2024
Barbara Sweetland*	8/2/2024		

*Beneficiary

**Deferred member

2025 Pre-Retirement Planning Sessions for Active Employees

The Retirement Systems Office will offer evening presentations for small groups of 5-6 active employees, and their beneficiaries, to discuss retirement issues. The presentations are geared for those employees who are contemplating retiring within the next couple of years. Information on the 457-deferred compensation plan will be distributed to participants, and there will also be a representative from Insurance Services to speak about retiree healthcare provisions.

The presentations for 2025 are scheduled for May 7 and September 10. The meetings will be held from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. in the Retirement Systems Office, 233 Fulton Street East, Suite 216. If you are interested in attending either of these sessions, please contact Lisa Balkema at (616) 365-5015 to register.

What happens if a member dies before retiring?

If a death should occur while actively employed as a Police or Fire member, the surviving dependents receive the following benefits:

- The surviving spouse receives an allowance for life. The amount of this allowance is determined as if the member had retired with a service allowance; based upon credited service and final average salary at the time of death, and elected Option B-100 to protect the spouse. The minimum spousal allowance is 20% of final average salary (the minimum helps the employee with short service).
- Each of the dependent children receives an allowance of 15% of the member's final average salary to age 18 (or to age 23 as long as the child continues to be a full-time student and unmarried). The total for all the children cannot exceed 50% at any one time.
- If neither a spouse nor a dependent child survives the member, and if one or both of the member's parents survive and were a dependent of the member, each dependent parent receives an allowance of 15% of the final average salary.

These death-before-retirement benefits are unusually comprehensive. They are payable for death from any cause and the coverage begins upon employment. Please note that according to City Code, benefit amounts are reduced by worker's compensation and social security payments received on account of the death.