

CITY OF BALTIMORE  
STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE, Mayor



FIRE & POLICE EMPLOYEES  
RETIREMENT SYSTEM

THOMAS P. TANEYHILL, CPA, Executive Director  
7 E. Redwood Street, 19<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202-3470

December 6, 2010

System No:

**Re: Opportunity to attain “grandfathered” status for members who are purchasing service credits or who could purchase service credits**

To All F&P Members,

Ordinance 10-357, passed in August 2010, clarified the changes made by Ordinance 10-306 as they relate to the “grandfather” rules that apply to certain benefit provisions.

The term “grandfathered” means that the member has met and retains eligibility and is not subject to the changes that were made to those certain provisions.

Members who are “grandfathered” retain eligibility to the provisions regarding:

1. the calculation of average final compensation based on the member’s highest salary for 18 consecutive months of service;
2. eligibility for normal service retirement for members hired on or before June 30, 2003, upon the earlier of attaining age 50 or acquiring 20 years of service credit.
3. eligibility to participate in DROP 2 upon acquiring 20 years of F&P service; and
4. interest is credited to the member’s DROP 2 account at 5.5%.

**Who is “grandfathered” to the provisions noted above?**

A member is “grandfathered” if the person:

- became an F&P member on or before June 30, 2003, and attained age 50 or acquired 20 years of service as of June 30, 2010;
- acquired at least 15 years of service as of June 30, 2010; or
- purchased available service credits as of December 31, 2010, when added to the member’s credits as of June 30, 2010, would equal or exceed 15 years of service.

Members can be “grandfathered” by a combination of service credits to attain the 15 years of service as of June 30, 2010. Members can use Current Service Credit, Credits for Military Service, if applicable, and purchased service credits.

Current Service Credit is a member’s employment time beginning with the most recent date he or she became a member of the F&P to June 30, 2010. The member must have contributed his or her regular mandatory contribution to the F&P to acquire Current Service Credit. Conversely, if the member did not make a regular mandatory contribution to the F&P for a pay period or a series of pay periods, the member would not receive service credit for that pay period or pay periods.

Members called to military service during F&P covered employment can receive credit for their “within employment” military service if that military service is applied for with the F&P and it is documented with a Form DD214 with the F&P.

Purchased service credits include any of the various types of service, employment, or training time that have been available to purchase, such as prior F&P service, service credits acquired in a former plan that are eligible for transfer, HABC employment time, and Maryland Police Training time.

A member who purchases service on or before December 31, 2010, is deemed to have purchased that service as of June 30, 2010. Such purchased service will be treated as having been made as of June 30, 2010, and will be included for determination of whether a member is “grandfathered.”

**Who has the opportunity to attain grandfathered status by completing a purchase of eligible service credits before December 31, 2010?**

One or more of the following scenarios may apply:

- A member who is purchasing non-credited City employment, that is, civilian employment time prior to becoming a member of either the Employees’ Retirement System of the City of Baltimore or the Fire and Police Employees’ Retirement System.
- A member who is purchasing prior F&P service credits that the member lost because the member left and returned to City employment covered by the F&P.
- A member who prior to June 30, 2003, left and returned within 5 years to City employment covered by the F&P and who could be eligible to purchase prior F&P service credits.
- A member who is currently purchasing service credits that the member transferred from another plan.
- A member who is currently purchasing service credits or is entitled to purchase service credits acquired through employment with the Housing Authority of Baltimore City (HABC).

- A member who is currently purchasing service credits or is entitled to purchase service credits for Maryland Police Corps training time.

The above possibilities COULD APPLY to a member who:

- is not a DROP or DROP 2 participant,
- had less than 14 years of service credits as of June 30, 2009, (check your June 30, 2009 Member Statement) and who was still an active member as of June 30, 2010, and who made all member contributions throughout the year from July 1, 2009, to June 30, 2010,
- had less than 15 years of service credits as of June 30, 2010.

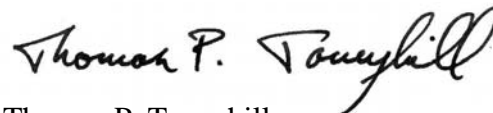
**Members who may be eligible to purchase or complete the purchase of service credits to attain “grandfathered” status should IMMEDIATELY CONTACT the F&P.**

Contact the F&P by:

- Calling the F&P Office at 410-497-7929, Option 9, or toll free 888-410-1600, Option 9. This is a special hotline for service credit purchases only. If we are unable to immediately take your call, you may stay on the line and wait for the receptionist or leave a voice mail message. If you leave a voice mail message, please state your name and a phone number where you can be reached. Your file will be reviewed to determine whether you have service credits available for purchase. You will receive a call back within two business days. If you do not receive a call back, please contact the F&P at the aforementioned numbers again.
- Emailing the F&P at [ServicePurchase@bcfpers.org](mailto:ServicePurchase@bcfpers.org). Please place “Service Purchase” in the subject line. In the body of the email, please include your name and a phone number where you can be reached day or evening. You will receive an email or phone call back within 2 business days.
- Mailing the attached Service Purchase Request form to the F&P Office.
- Visiting the F&P Member Services office at 7 E. Redwood Street, 18<sup>th</sup> floor.

Please notify the F&P if you are purchasing service credits and we can assist you to attain “grandfathered” status.

Sincerely,



Thomas P. Taneyhill  
Executive Director

Fire & Police Employees' Retirement System  
City of Baltimore  
Service Purchase Review Request

FOR F&P USE ONLY
SYSTEM #: _____
DATE RECD: _____
RECD BY: _____

To the F&P: Please review my service available for purchase. Let me know if I complete the purchase by December 31, 2010, whether it will help me to attain "grandfathered" status.

To the F&P Member: Please complete the following and mail to the address below or email to [ServicePurchase@bcfpers.org](mailto:ServicePurchase@bcfpers.org)

Member's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
First MI Last

Member's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
mm/dd/yyyy

Last 4 digits of Member's Social Security Number: \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_

Member's mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip Code

Phone numbers where member can be reached day or evening:

Home: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Work: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form to: Fire & Police Employees' Retirement System  
7 E. Redwood St  
18<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Baltimore, MD 21202

OR  
Email this form to: [ServicePurchase@bcfpers.org](mailto:ServicePurchase@bcfpers.org)