



FORT WORTH POLICE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

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FORT WORTH, TX 76102

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March 23, 2020

Mayor Betsy Price (by email)
City of Fort Worth
200 Texas St.
Fort Worth, Texas 76102

Honorable Mayor Price -

We have the utmost appreciation for your committed leadership on behalf of all Fort Worth residents as we seek to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic.

As you know, your Fort Worth police officers are still working around the clock to protect the citizens of our great city. As such, I am sure you would agree they are finding themselves at greater risk for being exposed to the COVID 19 Coronavirus. Given the emergency declarations in place, and the limited interactions anyone should be having with the general public, it would seem highly likely that any of your police officers that might be diagnosed with COVID-19 in the coming days or weeks would be as a result from an on-duty exposure.

While the City of Fort Worth has seen multiple confirmed COVID 19 cases, to date we have had no Fort Worth police officers receive a diagnosis for said disease. Given the fact that tests are limited and could take several days for results it may be impossible for our members to know for sure that contact with a COVID-19 patient even occurred. Additionally, as a function of our jobs we have considerable citizen contact that cannot always be conducted at a safe social distance. Coupled with the fact that police officers have not been issued or instructed to wear preventative protective equipment, a COVID-19 carrier with no symptoms could very easily come into contact with a police officer during their shift.

We are respectfully requesting that the City of Fort Worth accept any claims for coverage of a diagnosis of COVID-19 under the Workers' Compensation system by a police officer for the foreseeable future. Your police officers are concerned for their safety, as well as for their families' in the event they were to return home and expose them after their shifts.



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It would be a greatly appreciated show of support for our dedicated police officers if the City of Fort Worth would assure them that they will be provided the coverage requested for an on-duty exposure to and diagnosis of COVID-19.

Fort Worth police officers are committed to upholding their oath to keep our city safe even through these most difficult of circumstances. Thank you for your steadfast leadership through these tumultuous times. I am confident that if we work together that our great City will not only endure but prosper.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Ramirez", is positioned above the typed name.

Manny R. Ramirez, MBA
President
Fort Worth Police Officers Association

cc by email: Mayor Betsy Price
Mayor pro tem Jungus Jordan
City Manager David Cooke
Assistant City Manager Jay Chapa
Police Chief Ed Kraus