

*Below is a draft letter that I plan to send to the Wilmette paper. I think that it could serve as a template for individuals in many north and west suburban communities who want to push back against village governments that have supported the Pension Fairness Coalition.*

I have lived in Wilmette for 26 years. I recall the day when the police cordoned off the downtown looking for the murderer of a young mother and how two houses within blocks of where I live have been destroyed by fire. For these and other occasions, I am grateful to the men and women who serve our community as police and firefighters.

According to the Village's most recent actuarial reports, Wilmette's retired and disabled firefighters and their surviving spouses received an average pension benefit of \$46,051 in 2009. The average benefit for Wilmette's retired and disabled police officers and their surviving spouses was \$45,555. As a reminder, our community's median household income back in 1999 was \$106,773.

As a taxpayer, I have no problem with a system that provides pensions in these amounts to individuals whose lives on any given day may be placed at risk for our community. I am certain that many Wilmette citizens feel the same way.

Regards,

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