

President's Brief

For the benefit of those who could not attend today's meeting here is a synopsis of the information we shared.

I first briefed the members on communications from our attorneys regarding the action by the Fifth Circuit on the Degan case. The Fifth Circuit has asked the Texas Supreme Court to certify "Whether the method of withdrawal of funds from the Deferred Retirement Option Plan is a service retirement benefit protected under article XVI, section 66 of the Texas Constitution." If their answer to question 1 is "yes," then whether the Board of the Dallas Police and Fire Pension's System's decision, pursuant to the Texas statute in question, to alter previous withdrawal elections and annuitize the DROP funds over the respective life expectancy of the Plaintiffs violates Section 66 of the Texas Constitution. The Texas Supreme Court has accepted the request for certification from the Fifth Circuit and will be scheduling oral arguments sometime in the future. We will let everyone know when that date is set.

I also briefed the members on the results of our interviews with the five mayoral candidates who responded to our questionnaire. Ms. Regina Montoya, Mr. Albert Black, Mr. Mike Ablon, Mr. Jason Villalba and Mr. Scott Griggs were in attendance. Based on their responses to questions from our DPROA Board, the board voted to endorse Mr. Scott Griggs for Mayor. This will be an endorsement in name only, with no accompanying monetary contribution. Following this announcement, I explained to the members present that we were making this endorsement with the knowledge that endorsements sometimes backfire and politicians don't always honor their commitments. In this instance, however, it only makes sense to back the one who at least says he will support us and has a plan ready to implement. In an effort to gauge the support from our membership for this endorsement, I asked for a show of hands and it was unanimous. Members were advised that if they wished to make a contribution to Mr. Griggs to please note on the check that they were a DPROA member.

We also received a report from our Treasurer on the status of our membership drive and sign up for the Annual Adjustment lawsuit. We currently have 824 members, 563 Police and 261 Fire. There have been 434 members submit their contracts and pay their \$400 contribution to join in the lawsuit. We anticipate that number to grow significantly as we get closer to the **deadline of May 31, 2019**. Please don't wait too long. We want to accommodate everyone interested in joining the fight but **the deadline is firm and will not be extended**. I will be at the Retiree Banquet this Saturday with applications for membership and contracts for anyone wanting to pick them up. I hope to see you all there.

David Elliston