



January 25, 2016

Richard J. Berry, Mayor
City of Albuquerque
P.O. Box 1293
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102

Dear Mayor Berry:

As Mayor of the Town of Mesilla, I am writing in support of an exemption for law enforcement retirees from the Return to Work Law. Making the changes necessary that would allow retired police officers to not have to suspend the pension they have earned in order to continue serving the public is of critical importance to our municipality. This legislation is critical because it would assist with filling funded vacant positions, recruitment and retaining valuable experience and institutional knowledge in the development of this highly skilled work force.

Our experience here at the Town of Mesilla has been that as a small municipality we cannot compete against larger municipalities with salaries to hire qualified, experienced applicants. The applications we receive are very few and those we do receive are applicants in law enforcement who have been terminated from other municipalities, therefore, bringing their problems and issues into our community and in some cases we end up in litigation or mediation.

A reasonable and limited return to work provision would alleviate these shortages that our local governments are experiencing in law enforcement and would allow us an opportunity to hire well qualified, experienced and trained applicants.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nora L. Barraza".

Nora L. Barraza, Mayor

Town of Mesilla