



# City of Alamogordo



## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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January 25, 2016

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

Dear Mayor Berry,

As Mayor of Alamogordo, 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 city. 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.

A current challenge within the Alamogordo Police Department is a shortage of half the officers needed to fill patrolman shifts. We are down to only three shifts instead of the usual six (rotating night and day shifts). If our only option is to recruit new officers, instead of retaining those soon to retire or recently retired, then it will take a year or more to fully staff the Alamogordo Police Department. To be a year away from providing an adequate number of public safety officers to respond to calls for service from Alamogordo citizens is not in the best interest of Alamogordo.

The Alamogordo City Commission is doing its part to work with the City Manager to improve retention and recruitment incentives. The increasing cost for public safety has been afforded through the local tax base, but we need the partnership of New Mexico's PERA to adequately staff our Police Department.

A reasonable and limited return to work provision would alleviate these shortages that our local governments are experiencing in law enforcement.

Respectfully,

Susie Galea, Mayor of Alamogordo

cc: file