

The Washington Times

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Park Police retirees will get pay increase

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PUBLICATION: The Washington Times

SECTION: C

METROPOLITAN TIMES

DISTRICT NEWS

DATE: February 21, 1995

EDITION: 2

Page: C7

When Congress raised pay for U.S. Park Police in 1990, it also raised the pay for the more than 400 retired members, a federal judge has ruled.

U.S. District Judge Stanley Sporkin, ruling on a lawsuit filed by an association representing the retired Park Police members, ruled Feb. 10 that retirement annuities paid to Park Police retirees must be raised by the same percentage as active members' pay increases.

Attorneys representing the retired Park Police members announced the ruling yesterday.

The case stems from the approval of pay increases for current Park Police members nationwide in the Federal Law Enforcement Pay Reform Act. That act approved what are known as locality pay increases - raises based on where employees live - for certain Park Police members, including those who work in the District.

The Police Association of the District of Columbia, a union that represents members of the Park Police and the uniformed division of the U.S. Secret Service and some Metropolitan Police Department members, argued that retired members were entitled to the same percentage increase in pay. When the governments wouldn't pay the increase, the association filed suit.

The ruling means that an estimated \$300,000 will go to retired Park Police members, said **John Mahoney**, an **attorney** who represented the police association in the suit.

However, the District, currently in the midst of a severe financial crisis in which the city faces a fiscal year 1995 deficit of \$722 million in its \$3.2 billion budget and a possible cash flow problem as early as next month, will not have to scrounge for the money, Mr. **Mahoney** said.

"This isn't going to break the bank of the District government," Mr. **Mahoney** said. "Every penny the District government pays is reimbursed by the federal government."

The District merely administers the payments. The reason for that arrangement is an antiquated congressional provision that dates from before home rule, Mr. **Mahoney** said.

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