

RESOLUTION NO. 597

WHEREAS, the General Assembly has heretofore enacted legislation requiring, for purposes of retirement and workmen's compensation benefits, that respiratory and coronary heart diseases suffered by firefighters and policemen employed by local governments must be presumed to have been caused by their occupations absent proof to the contrary; and

WHEREAS, the creation of such a statutory presumption is and will continue to increase significantly the cost of pension and compensation benefits payable by the city; and

WHEREAS, available medical, scientific and statistical reports and data indicate that stress is not a factor in the causation and development of coronary heart disease, and that there is no relation between occupation, including that of policemen and firefighters, and the incidence of coronary heart disease, and there being no evidence that the occupations of policemen and firefighters contribute to the development of respiratory diseases,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia that the city's delegation to the Virginia General Assembly be requested to introduce or support legislation to amend the state code to modify above-described statutory presumptions; rendering them inoperative where the employee has a history of smoking, obesity or participating in activities outside the course of his or her employment which contribute to such disease.

Adopted January 24, 1978

Mrs. Helen Holleman, Clerk of the
City of Alexandria, Virginia