

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE FOR THE  
VILLAGE OF BARRINGTON HILLS TO DETERMINE ELIGIBILITY UNDER THE  
PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYEE BENEFITS ACT**

**WHEREAS**, the Village of Barrington Hills (the "Village") is a home rule municipality pursuant to Article VII, Section 6, of the Constitution of the State of Illinois, and as such is authorized to take all reasonable action pertaining to its affairs in accordance therewith; and

**WHEREAS**, the Public Safety Employee Benefits Act (PSEBA), (the Act), was enacted in November 1997 to provide free health insurance benefits to the full-time police officers and firefighters who are killed or catastrophically injured in the line of duty; and

**WHEREAS**, for purposes of fulfillment of the intent of the Act, the Village adopted administrative procedures to determine eligibility under the Act; and

**WHEREAS**, the administrative procedures have recently been reviewed, and staff has suggested amendment to the procedures as set forth herein; and

**WHEREAS**, it has been determined by the Village President and Board of Trustees that it is in the best interest of the Village and public safety employees to amend the administrative procedures to determine eligibility under the Act by as set forth herein.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF BARRINGTON HILLS**, as follows:

Section I: Purpose.

A. The purpose of this chapter is to provide a fair and efficient method of determining the eligibility of a full-time Village of Barrington Hills police officer to the benefits enumerated under the Public Safety Employee Benefits Act ("PSEBA") through an administrative process, including if necessary, an administrative hearing. All benefits provided employees pursuant to PSEBA must be consistent with the PSEBA.

B. The Administrative procedure established herein is intended to determine eligibility to receive, certain health insurance benefits from the Village. This administrative procedure is not a contract that bestows a benefit or entitlement on any particular individual, and may be modified by the Village at any time without notice.

Any full-time police officer, who after November 14, 1997, suffers a catastrophic injury in the line of duty, may apply for health insurance benefits under the Act as set forth below. The same benefits may be extended to the spouse and eligible dependent children of the catastrophically injured public safety employee or police officer killed in the line of duty, provided the conditions as established by the Act are met.

Section II: Application Procedure.

A. *Application Required.* To seek benefits under the Act, a full-time police officer, or in the event of the death or incapacity of the police officer, a family member of the injured or deceased police officer, must file with the Police Chief a fully completed PSEBA application, in writing, within 30 calendar days of the granting of a line-of-duty disability pension, or within 30 calendar days of the date of the adoption of this Ordinance in the event that the employee has filed a pension claim prior to the date of adoption of this ordinance, whichever is later.

The application must include the name of employee, date of hire, detailed information regarding the incident, (including date, time, place, nature of injury, any other factual circumstances surrounding said incident giving rise to said claim), witnesses to the incident, witnesses the applicant intends to call at the PSEBA hearing, information and supporting documentation filed with the pension board by the Applicant or identified as exhibits by the pension board and any pension board determination or ruling, documents/information supporting the PSEBA eligibility requirements. Failure to timely file the fully completed application along with submittal of other required information shall result in a forfeiture of the benefits under PSEBA.

Upon request, the Police Chief, or his designee, shall furnish a Public Safety Employee Benefit Act application to the Applicant.

B. *Sworn Statement Required.* The PSEBA application shall include a sworn and notarized statement explaining how the disabling jury or death directly resulted from:

- (1) A police officer's response to fresh pursuit;
- (2) A police officer's response to what is reasonably believed to be an emergency;
- (3) A police officer's response to an unlawful act perpetrated by another; or
- (4) A police officer's participation during the investigation of a criminal act.

C. *Medical Release Required.* A signed PSEBA medical release authorizing the collection of medical information related to the incident including, but not limited to, the disability pension proceedings, worker's compensation records and medical records, must be submitted with the PSEBA application. The PSEBA medical information release must specify the name, address, email and phone information for pertinent health care provider(s) and hospital(s), along with employee's signature and a witness signature. A review of the PSEBA application will not occur until the PSEBA medical authorization release is submitted.

D. *General Information Release Required.* A signed PSEBA general information release authorizing the collection of general information related to the incident, including, but not limited to disability pension proceedings, worker's compensation records and medical records, must be submitted with the application. The PSEBA general information release must specify the name and signature of the employee along with the name and signature of a witness authorizing the collection of information pertinent to the incident review process. A review of the PSEBA application will not occur until the PSEBA general information release is submitted.

E. *Other Information.* The Police Chief may require other information necessary to make a determination as to whether an administrative hearing is required, including, but not limited to health insurance benefits the employee is currently receiving or is eligible to receive; or, any other health insurance benefits the employee or family members are otherwise entitled. The Applicant has an ongoing obligation to update information provided. Failure to do so may result in the denial of benefits.

### Section III: Application Review by the Police Chief and Notification.

A. Upon receipt of a fully completed application for PSEBA benefits timely filed, the Police Chief shall review the application and supporting documents to make an initial determination regarding the application for benefits. That determination may be:

- (1) A determination to grant benefits based upon the preliminary record.
- (2) A determination to deny benefits.
- (3) The making of such other finding as is consistent with the evidence or by agreement of the Applicant and the Village.

B. If the Police Chief grants the benefit based on the preliminary record and subject to any necessary authorization by the Village Board, the Applicant will be notified and required to make further contact with the Police Chief within thirty (30) calendar days for benefit explanation and processing.

C. If the Police Chief denies the benefit based on the preliminary record, the Applicant will receive written notice of such denial and the Applicant shall have the right to request an administrative hearing which must be served in writing to the Police Chief not later than 30 calendar days after being served with written notice of the denial. Upon receipt of a timely notice from the Applicant, the Police Chief shall schedule an administrative hearing and serve the Applicant with notice of the administrative hearing along with a date for the scheduled administrative hearing.

D. Failure to request an administrative hearing within 30 calendar days after being served with written notice of the denial of PSEBA benefits by the Police Chief shall result in the forfeiture of benefits under the PSEBA.

E. If the Applicant or Village, upon receiving written notice of the administrative hearing date, cannot attend said date as indicated in the notice of administrative hearing, the Applicant or the Village, as the case may be, must contact the Hearing Officer within seven calendar days after being served with notice of the administrative hearing, communicating alternative hearing date(s) which are within close proximity of the original hearing date indicated by the Hearing Officer. Continuances will be granted for good cause only. Failure to appear and/or cooperate in the hearing process may result in denial of benefits.

Section IV: Administrative Hearing/Hearing Officer.

A. *Power of the Hearing Officer.* The Hearing Officer shall have all of the powers granted to him under common law relative to the conduct of an administrative hearing including the power to:

- (1) preside over all Village hearings involving PSEBA;
- (2) administer oaths;
- (3) hear testimony taken under oath and affirmation and accept evidence that is relevant to the issue of eligibility under PSEBA;
- (4) issue subpoenas to secure attendance of witnesses and the production of relevant papers or documents upon the request of the parties or their representatives;
- (5) rule upon objections in the admissibility of evidence and other motions;
- (6) preserve and authenticate the record of the hearing and all exhibits in evidence introduced at the hearing;
- (7) issue a determination based on the evidence presented at the hearing, after entertaining arguments in either oral or written format, at the discretion of the Hearing Officer, the determination of which shall be in writing and shall include a written finding of fact, decision and order.

B. *Appointment of Hearing officer.* The Village President, with the consent of the Board of Trustees, is hereby authorized to appoint a person to hold the position of a Hearing Officer for any hearing that shall be scheduled by the Village. In making said selection, the Village President shall consider all pertinent information including, at a minimum:

- (1) the candidate's ability to competently perform the services; and
- (2) the candidate's service record and performance data made available to the Village President on file with the Village or otherwise obtained by the Village.

- (3) the candidate must be an attorney licensed to practice law in the State of Illinois for at least three years prior to appointment and have knowledge of and experience in employment and labor law, general civil procedure, the rules of evidence, and administrative practice.

Section V: Administrative Hearing.

A. An administrative hearing shall be held to adjudicate and determine whether the Applicant is eligible for benefits under PSEBA. If the Applicant is found eligible, the benefits shall be consistent with the Act.

- (1) *Time and date.* Hearings shall be held on the date, time and place as established by the Village with appropriate notice served upon the Applicant.
- (2) *Record.* The Applicant, at Applicant's expense, shall ensure that all hearings shall be attended by a certified court reporter and a transcript of all proceedings shall be made by said certified court reporter and a copy be provided to the Village at Applicant's expense within fourteen (14) days of the date of the PSEBA hearing
- (3) *Procedures.* The Village and the Applicant shall be entitled to representation by counsel at said hearing and may present witnesses, may present testimony and documents, may cross-examine opposing witnesses, and may request the issuance of subpoenas to compel the appearance of relevant witnesses or the production of relevant documents. Each party shall bear the costs of its own counsel and witnesses.
- (4) *Evidence.* In so far as is practical, the rules of evidence as set forth in the Illinois Code of Evidence shall apply.
- (5) *Final determination.* The determination by the Hearing Officer of whether the Applicant is eligible for the benefits under the Public Safety Employee Benefits Act (820 ILCS 320/1 et seq.) shall constitute a final administrative determination for the purpose of judicial review.
- (6) *Burden of proof.* At any administrative hearing, the Applicant shall have the obligation and burden of proof to establish that the Applicant is qualified to receive the benefits.
- (7) *Administrative records.* All records pertaining to the administrative process will be held in a separate file in the employee's name maintained by the Village.

Section VI. Health Insurance Benefits. The following provisions apply to any injured employee receiving PSEBA benefits, irrespective of the date of injury.

A. If the Police Chief or Hearing Officer awards PSEBA benefits, the Village's basic level insurance plan, as designated by the Village in the event the Village offers more than one insurance plan, will be the plan offered. The Village's basic level insurance plan may change from time to time. If the Applicant chooses to enroll in a plan available in the Village other than the designated basic level insurance plan, then the Applicant must pay any difference in insurance premiums between the Village's basic plan and that of another plan on a monthly basis, due by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month in which coverage is effective. Failure to pay said premiums by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month in which coverage is effective, may result in cancellation of the health insurance plan.

B. Individuals receiving benefits under PSEBA will only be able to change from one plan to another during the Village's Open Enrollment Period.

Section VII. Other Health Insurance Benefits.

A. Health insurance benefits payable from any other source will reduce the benefits payable from the Village. Each Applicant will annually be required to sign an affidavit attesting to the fact that he/she is not eligible for insurance benefits from any other source. If the applicant and/or spouse are eligible for insurance benefits

from any other source, the applicant and/or spouse must enroll in the insurance program offered by the eligible source. If the applicant and/or spouse incur a premium cost, the Village will reimburse the applicant and/or spouse for their respective share of the premium associated with the lowest cost plan.

B. It is the responsibility of the benefit recipient to notify the Village within 30 days of any changes to other sources of health insurance benefits. Receipt of benefits in violation of this provision will require reimbursement to the Village of any benefits received. The Village will require, on an annual basis to have the benefit recipient provide an affidavit affirming whether other health insurance is available or payable to the Applicant, his/her spouse and/or his/her qualifying dependent children. A failure to promptly notify the Village of any change in dependency status or insurance coverage availability may result in a forfeiture of health insurance benefits under this Ordinance.

C. The Applicant is required to notify the Village when the Applicant becomes Medicare eligible so the Village can assist with the transition to Medicare coverage and/or adjust health insurance benefits accordingly.

D. Dependent children of the Applicant will be covered and subject to Provision A., until the child reaches the age of majority or until the end of the calendar year in which the child reaches 25 if the child continues to be dependent for support or the child is a full-time or part-time student and is dependent for support. The Applicant is required to notify the Village within 30 days of any change of dependent status and will be required to complete and sign an affidavit on an annual basis as to the status of each dependent.

E. It is unlawful for a person to willfully and knowingly make or cause to be made, any false, fraudulent, or misleading oral or written statement to obtain health insurance coverage provided under this Section. A violation of this item is a Class A misdemeanor. Upon conviction for this violation all rights to receive health insurance by the Applicant, Spouse and dependent children will be forfeited.

Section VIII. If any provision of this Ordinance is subsequently declared by State or Federal legislative or judicial authority to be unlawful, unenforceable, or not in accordance with applicable statutes, all other provisions of this Agreement shall remain in full force and effect.

Section IX. This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage, approval, and publication in pamphlet form as provided by law.

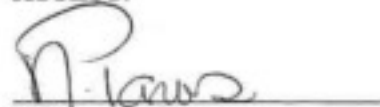
Ayes: 7    Nays: 0    Absent: 0

**PASSED AND APPROVED** by the President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Barrington Hills, Illinois, this 24th day of February, 2020.

APPROVED:

  
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Village President

ATTEST:

  
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Village Clerk