AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND LITTLE ROCK, ARK., ORDINANCE NO. 20,805 (OCTOBER 15, 2013), TO ALLOW FOR A ONE HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLAR ($150.00) PER MONTH INCREASE IN BENEFITS TO MEMBERS OF THE LITTLE ROCK POLICE PENSION AND RELIEF FUND, NOW ADMINISTERED BY THE ARKANSAS LOCAL POLICE AND FIRE RETIREMENT SYSTEM; TO AMEND THE AMORTIZATION PERIOD; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, in Little Rock, Ark., Ordinance No. 20,805 (October 15, 2013) (“LRO No. 20,805”), the Board of Directors of the City of Little Rock, upon request by the Board of Trustees of the Little Rock Police Pension and Relief Fund, transferred the administration of the Little Rock Police Pension and Relief Fund -- which applies to eligible police officers who were hired by the Little Rock Police Department prior to January 1, 1983, to the Arkansas Local Police and Fire Retirement System (“LOPFI”); and,

WHEREAS, Section 4 of LRO No. 20,805, made an initial monthly increase in benefits and permitted a review every three (3) years regarding a possible additional increase or Cost of Living Adjustment; and,

WHEREAS, while State Statute requires that benefit increases follow State Law, this is no longer completely possible due to the fact that the Board of Trustees of the Local Police Pension Fund was disbanded, so based upon the representations of LOPFI and Section 5 of LRO No. 20,805, substitutes an ordinance from the Board of Directors of the City of Little Rock to authorize such an increase; and,

WHEREAS, an Actuarial Study has been requested to assure that this increase in benefits can be amortized over a twenty-two (22)-year period as set forth in Section 5 of LRO No. 20,705, before the benefit increase will become effective;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CITY OF LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS:

Section 1. Section 2 of LRO NO. 20,805 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 2. The City Manager is hereby authorized to enter into an irrevocable agreement, using a twenty-two (22) year amortization schedule, with LOPFI to administer the Little Rock Police Pension and Relief fund as stated in Section 1 hereof.

Section 2. Section 4 of LRO No. 20,805 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 4. The agreement with LOPFI shall include:
(a) An initial Seventy-Five Dollar ($75.00) per month benefit increase to all retiree and survivor accounts, except alternate payees under a Qualified Domestic Relations Order, beginning January 1, 2014; and,

(b) An additional One Hundred Fifty Dollar ($150.00) per month benefit increase to all retiree and survivor accounts, except alternate payees under a Qualified Domestic Relations Order, beginning January 1, 2018.

Section 3. Section 5 of LRO No. 20,805 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 5. The Board of Directors commit to review and reconsider a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) on a recurring three (3)-year basis following the consolidation until the conclusion of the closed twenty-two (22)-year amortization period. Any Actuarial Valuations conducted as a part of the review and reconsideration shall be made by an Independent Actuary as required by State Law.

Section 4. Effective Date. Upon the passage of this ordinance, and the emergency clause, the effective date of this benefit increase shall be January 1, 2018, provided that an appropriate actuarial evaluation is made by the City and accepted by LOPFI.

Section 5. Severability. In the event any title, subtitle, section, subsection, subdivision, paragraph, subparagraph, item, sentence, clause, phrase, or work of this ordinance is declared or adjudged to be invalid or unconstitutional, such declaration or adjudication shall not affect the remaining portions of the ordinance which shall remain in full force and effect as if the portion so declared or adjudged invalid or unconstitutional was not originally a part of this ordinance.

Section 6. Repealer. All ordinances, resolutions, or parts of the same that are inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency including, but not limited to, Little Rock, Ark., Ordinance No. 20,805 (October 15, 2013).

Section 7. Emergency Clause. The ability to adequately provide retirement benefits for retired Little Rock Police Officers and eligible survivors who, among other things, are not a part of the Federal Social Security System for their work as Police Officers is essential to the public health safety and welfare and this fact is exacerbated when certain deadlines set by LOPFI require this action during the month of September before a benefit increase can occur the following January; further, the necessity to clarify the period of amortization as twenty-two (22) years, instead of twenty-five (25) years, for the irrevocable agreement between the City and LOPFI is also essential; an emergency is declared to exist and this ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after the date of its passage.

PASSED: September 5, 2017
ATTEST:            APPROVED:

______________________________________   _____________________________________
Susan Langley, City Clerk        Mark Stodola, Mayor

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:

______________________________________
Thomas M. Carpenter, City Attorney