AN ORDINANCE

BY COUNCILMEMBER FELICIA MOORE

02-O-0037

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE PENSION LAWS APPLICABLE TO POLICE OFFICERS OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA SO AS TO INCREASE THE MONTHLY PENSION BENEFIT OF OFFICERS WHERE A DETERMINATION HAS BEEN MADE BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE POLICE OFFICERS PENSION FUND THAT AN OFFICER HAS BECOME DISABLE AS A RESULT OF A CATASTROPHIC INJURY RECEIVED IN THE LINE OF DUTY; TO PROVIDE THAT SAID ORDINANCE SHALL BE RETROACTIVE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the city to provide the finest and most supportive pension benefits to the city's law enforcement officers that it can afford; and

WHEREAS, it is also in the best interest of the city to use police pension benefits as a tool by which to attract qualified applicants for the many unfilled police positions as well as to retain current law enforcement officers in their present positions; and

WHEREAS, the current pension laws of the City of Atlanta do not address the situation of adequate benefits regarding catastrophic injuries in the line of duty.

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA, GEORGIA HEREBY ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1: Georgia Laws 1933, p. 213, particularly as amended by Georgia Laws 1978, p. 4527(and as has been further amended) and codified at section 6-222, Related Laws Section of Volume I, City Charter and Code (Police Officers Pension Fund) is hereby amended by providing that any City of Atlanta police officer who

receives a catastrophic injury in the line of duty, will receive 100% of the top salary for the grade and position that he/she occupied at the time of his/her injury.

Section 2: This ordinance shall be retroactive and those persons who have received catastrophic injuries in the line of duty, while employed as City of Atlanta police officers, shall be eligible for review and adjustment of their pension in accordance with this section.

Section 3: The Chief Financial Officer of the City of Atlanta shall identify any and all funding required to implement this ordinance.

Section 4: All ordinances, or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Section 5: As expressed and referenced in Resolution 01-R-1940, adopted on November 19, 2001 (attached), it is the intent of the City Council to increase the monthly pension benefit of officers as it relates to catastrophic injury, and also as referenced in Ordinance 01-O-0976, adopted on September 17, 2001 (attached) where the definition of catastrophic injury is contained. The actuarial cost study has been done, as per the October 31, 2001 letter from the Board of Trustees of the Police Officers' Pension Fund.