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Mayor & City Council of Baltimore City
City Hall
100 Holliday St.
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Attn: President Bernard C. "Jack" Young, Vice President Edward Reisinger, and Councilmembers James B. Kraft, Brandon M. Scott, Robert Curran, Bill Henry, Rochelle "Rikki" Spector, Sharon Green Middleton, Nick Mosby, Helen Holton, William "Pete" Welch, Eric T. Costello, Carl Stokes, Warren Branch, Mary Pat Clarke

To Whom It May Concern:

Baltimore City firefighters engage in one of the most taxing professions in the nation, wherein they regularly risk physical injury and death on the job. Timely and responsibly meeting the medical and basic living expenses of firefighters who are determined to be disabled, as a result of being injured in the Line of Duty, is not just a legal obligation but a moral one. An injury such as the one that I suffered should not result in medical conditions worsened by the delay and denial of necessary benefits, nor should it leave the firefighter, or their family, financially destitute and emotionally battered.

Those entrusted with maintaining the medical files related to injuries suffered in the performance of a firefighter's duties have a clear responsibility to do so, as provided for in the Baltimore City Code, Article 22. In no way should the failure of officials within the City of Baltimore to properly maintain and submit the complete medical files of injured members in the administrative hearing process to determine eligibility for disability retirement benefits, create obstacles bound to worsen the physical and financial conditions of members of the department who have suffered debilitating injuries. Instead of carrying out these duties consistent with their legal and moral obligations, the Baltimore City Solicitor's Office routinely and improperly forwarded legally inconsistent arguments, withheld relevant evidence that they have in their possession, and fabricated evidence that they didn't have to unlawfully obtain a ruling that is favorable to them, all in an effort to wrongfully deny what is ultimately the City of Baltimore's obligation.

I have forwarded complaints in the past that have been rejected without any investigation being performed. As these complaints contained allegations that the Baltimore City Solicitor's Office fabricated evidence and committed perjury in litigation related to an application for disability retirement benefits filed on my behalf, and due to the fact that these very same allegations are being discovered to be a pattern and practice that has been described as a culture in the City of Baltimore by the United States Department of Justice, I am forwarding the accompanying complaint to be presented to the appropriate board for an investigation and a hearing on these allegations. It is my intent to file for relief from the board's action, if this request is denied, in the Circuit Court for Baltimore City based upon this newly discovered evidence. This evidence supports my allegations that were brought to the attention of the City several years ago and has yet to be resolved. This current complaint does not attempt to re-litigate the denial of retirement disability benefits but only seeks to hold the responsible parties accountable for their violations of criminal law and to clear my name. An investigation must consist of something more than

just calling the City Solicitor's Office and asking them if my allegations are true. It must involve my being called to offer whatever additional evidence is necessary and to refute any defense made by that office. The Solicitor's Office has been found to mislead the Mayor and City Council in the past, details of which were reported in the media and are a part of the complaint, and every effort must be undertaken to ensure that they are not continuing to demonstrate the same behavior in other cases.

The allegations against the Baltimore City Solicitor's Office are done knowingly in an effort to cover up the unlawful acts committed by the officials named in the complaint. Our elected and appointed officials need to answer to the citizens when ethical misconduct and malfeasance in the offices they hold are alleged and when found, every effort possible must be undertaken to have them removed from public service. For this reason alone, dismissing my previous complaints without as much as looking into the allegations was improper and I am requesting that this matter be re-opened and afforded the due process that it deserves.

I remain,

Brian Charles Vaeth