

Archives
Journals

Desks

Collections

Currently logged in as Ernest Garcia.

Search in: TJN Text Archive 

Full text:

Repeat query:

Menu

Search

New search
Refresh

Actions

Add to Collection
All results into Collection
Create Collection
Text Print Preview

Filter: 



Digital Collections



Page 6 of 500



Archive: TJN Text
Archive - more than 500
documents found.



Full text: "Ernie Garcia"

- Tuesday, May 31, 2011

City:
State:
Section: NEWS
Page: 1a wp
From:
Source:
Edition:
Publication: The Journal News

Yonkers cop surpassed \$300,000 pay mark as city struggled with 2010 budget crisis

YONKERS — During a budget crisis last year that left uncollected garbage on streets, a retiring police sergeant surpassed the \$300,000 compensation mark.

That milestone came as austerity measures shrank the city's municipal payroll almost \$7 million and total number of employees by more than 500 to 2,797 last year. Cost-cutting also led the city into a disastrous once-a-week garbage collection schedule that had to be abandoned midsummer after accumulating trash caused resident outrage.

Mayor Phil Amicone has said that the city's municipal budget for 2011-12 that takes effect July 1 will have the smallest city workforce since 1997. He has proposed a \$919 million combined city and school budget with a 4.81 percent property-tax rate increase that would cost the average homeowner an extra \$367.

That belt tightening didn't prevent retired police Sgt. William A. Rinaldi from

becoming the city's highest-paid official last year, with \$302,262.11 in total compensation — \$130,667 of it in overtime. Mayor Phil Amicone ranked 211th on the pay scale, with a salary of \$156,099, a figure unchanged from his 2009 pay.

Rinaldi and the three other highest-paid city workers all retired last year and received tens of thousands of dollars in payouts for severance, unused vacation and sick-leave time. Because pensions are calculated based on a worker's final three years' salaries, the overtime Rinaldi and others earned also is likely to have significantly increased their retirement benefits.

The Journal News obtained information about Yonkers' 2010 municipal payroll through a Freedom of Information Law request. It revealed all of the Top 10 earners in the city that year were in the Police and Fire departments.

Amicone's spokesman David Simpson said the mayor and his commissioners have done everything within their power to control personnel costs.

"There is nothing illegal about police officers increasing their pensions by padding overtime," Simpson wrote in an email. "But by now everyone realizes this practice is bankrupting New York state and local governments like Yonkers. Structural change is needed at the state level."

Last year, Amicone successfully lowered the city's overtime costs by \$4.5 million, though 130 city workers still earned more than \$50,000 in overtime; most of them police and fire unit workers. Simpson said a new group of police recruits in the summer will lower police overtime further.

The city also lowered the number of its most expensive employees last year. Staffers with gross pay of more than \$100,000 fell to 929 workers in 2010 compared with 993 in 2009.

Staff costs have been discussed in budget hearings held by the City Council this month.

On Thursday, council members met with officials from the Fire Department, where overtime spending fell 9 percent to about \$8 million.

Still, council members asked why other costs didn't go down.

"Unfortunately, we are doing more with less, so everything stays at the same level," said fire Commissioner Anthony Pagano.

News about Rinaldi's \$130,000 in overtime upset homeowner Dennis Brown, who was exercising at Saunders Trades and Technical High School on May 23 as parents were protesting layoffs in the school's parking lot before a public hearing on the budget began.

"It's ridiculous," said Brown, 51. The New York City civil servant said it was time to sell his house. "They're doing overtime directing traffic on the street."

Brown said he was referring to Consolidated Edison's M29 transmission line project that had city police officers stationed at work sites along the five-mile path through the city.

Police union President Keith Olson has said that high overtime is related to the city's inadequate amount of police officers. At the public hearing, he said there are misperceptions about police directing traffic.

"There is overtime incurred from those traffic details, but those traffic details are completely paid by the people who are using the detail. Most of it has been Con Ed,"

Olson said.

The City Council must adopt the city's 2011-12 budget by tomorrow.

Police, firefighters top Yonkers payroll list

This chart shows the highest-paid Yonkers city employees for calendar year 2010, along with their base pay and overtime. Gross pay also includes many other categories, including holiday pay, sick and vacation buyouts, severance and holiday pay.

| Name | Status | Base pay | Overtime | Gross Pay |
|---------------------|------------|----------------------|-----------|---------------------|
| William A. Rinaldi | Terminated | Police sergeant | \$106,683 | \$130,667 \$302,262 |
| Nicholas J. Capalbo | Terminated | Police sergeant | \$106,309 | \$109,341 \$279,712 |
| Vincent Tyler | Terminated | Police officer | \$87,865 | \$114,866 \$251,549 |
| Anthony J. Ryan | Terminated | Fire captain | \$104,033 | \$56,800 \$234,652 |
| Michael Murphy | Active | Police captain | \$130,411 | \$88,189 \$231,445 |
| James D. McLaughlin | Active | Police lieutenant | \$128,887 | \$88,529 \$230,868 |
| Roger F. Vitolo | Active | Assistant fire chief | \$127,907 | \$72,205 \$226,300 |
| Charles Fara | Active | Police captain | \$130,411 | \$73,798 \$223,539 |
| James Hammer | Active | Assistant fire chief | \$127,907 | \$71,099 \$221,984 |
| Owen Moynihan | Terminated | Police officer | \$96,522 | \$114,795 \$221,590 |

Source: Yonkers city payroll, 2010

Caption:

Element:
Graphic:
Image:
Resale: false
Keywords: topnews, westchestertopnews
Subkeys: NEWS02
Subject:
Day:
Book:
Byline: Ernie Garcia
Freekey: During a budget crisis last year in Yonkers that left uncollected garbage on streets
Country:
DC3 Id:

This document has been viewed 3 times.