

Resolution No. 37

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT: Policy

Re: Fire Fighter Fidelity Fund

1 WHEREAS, IAFF members have seen
2 unprecedented legal action taken against them for
3 performing their job duties, up to and including
4 felony charges; and

5 WHEREAS, two IAFF Local 1290 members in
6 Aurora, Colorado were both recently convicted of
7 criminal offenses for actions taken by them in the
8 scope of their job duties; and

9 WHEREAS, IAFF members have been in the
10 spotlight by members of the media, politicians, and
11 the general public, including unwarranted critique
12 and criticism of IAFF members including, but not
13 limited to, condemnation of actions taken during
14 split-second decisions, lifesaving efforts, and
15 performance of their job duties; and

16 WHEREAS, IAFF members have a long history
17 of risking and sacrificing their lives for the safety and
18 betterment of the members of the communities they
19 serve, regardless of demographics, socioeconomic
20 status, or other societal metric; and

21 WHEREAS, the costs of preparing and presenting
22 a legal defense to criminal charges can be beyond the
23 financial capacity of many IAFF members; and

24 WHEREAS, the IAFF needs to be a source of
25 assistance when members are facing criminal
26 prosecution for action taken within the scope of their

27 job duties; and

28 WHEREAS, the IAFF Constitution and By-Laws
29 Article VIII, Section 10, and Executive Board policy
30 LS 019 provides for the Emergency Disputes Fund
31 (EDF) to assist in the legal representation and
32 defense of members; however, the EDF is not a
33 source of financial assistance if and when members
34 are facing criminal prosecution for actions taken
35 within the scope of their job duties; and

36 WHEREAS, when public perception of IAFF
37 members is under attack, it affects the reputation of
38 all IAFF members; and

39 WHEREAS, in some instances of criminal
40 prosecution of IAFF members for actions taken
41 within the scope of their job duties, there is a need to
42 provide communications and public relations
43 assistance; therefore be it

44 RESOLVED, That a new section 14 be added to
45 Article VIII of the IAFF Constitution and By-Laws
46 and read as follows:

47 “The General Secretary-Treasurer shall establish
48 and maintain a Fire Fighter Fidelity Fund, which
49 will be used, subject to procedures established by
50 the Executive Board, to financially assist in the
51 legal defense and in the communications and
52 public relations components when a member is
53 facing criminal prosecution or public allegations
54 of dereliction of fidelity to duty for actions taken
55 within the scope of their job duties.

56 A unanimous vote of the Executive Board is
57 necessary for the approval of any request of the

58 Fire Fighter Fidelity Fund. Effective October 1,
59 2024, the Fire Fighter Fidelity Fund shall be
60 funded by a twenty-cent (\$0.20) perpetual per
61 capita; and be it further

62 RESOLVED, That the assistance contemplated
63 herein shall be subject to a Fire Fighter Fidelity Fund
64 policy to be established and enacted by the IAFF
65 Executive Board; and be it further

66 RESOLVED, That in promulgating the Fire
67 Fighter Fidelity Fund policy, the IAFF Executive
68 Board shall consider, among other factors, maximum
69 amounts of financial assistance to be awarded under
70 the policy and will take into account the type of
71 criminal charges being faced by a member, the
72 jurisdiction within which the charges are pending and
73 any other factors the IAFF Executive Board deems
74 appropriate.

Submitted by: IAFF Executive Board

Cost Estimate: **20 cents (\$0.20)**

Annual or Perpetual Designation: **Perpetual**

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt

CONVENTION ACTION: Adopted as Amended