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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CITIES AND TOWNS CREATE PENSION REFORM TASK FORCE

PHOENIX (June 24, 2014) – The rapidly rising costs of pensions for public employees—particularly those in police and fire service—are of great concern to city and town leaders and the taxpayers they represent. The cost of pensions and the long-term liability associated with them have become major components of municipal budgets.

The League of Arizona Cities and Towns has a vital interest in carefully examining the various proposals regarding reform of the Arizona Public Safety Personnel Retirement System (PSPRS). Cities and towns comprise more PSPRS employees than any other unit of government.

As a result, the League, in partnership with the Arizona City/County Management Association (ACMA) and the Government Finance Officers Association of Arizona (GFOAz) has formed a Pension Reform Task Force to examine the PSPRS system. The task force will review all aspects of PSPRS, identify areas for improvement and, if necessary, make recommendations to state lawmakers for reform.

Consisting of managers, finance directors, human resource directors and others, the group will initially make recommendations to the 91 cities and towns in the state. However, in order for any reform to be successful, consultation with other public employers, employee groups and state lawmakers will be critical. The ultimate goal is to ensure that employers have a strong yet affordable pension system for public safety personnel that is sustainable for generations to come.

The 15-member task force will begin meeting in July.

About the League:

The League of Arizona Cities and Towns is a voluntary association of all the 91 incorporated cities and towns in the State of Arizona. It provides policy and legislative advocacy, information and inquiry services, along with publications and educational programs to strengthen the quality and efficiency of municipal government. It was founded in 1937 to serve the interests of cities and towns and to preserve the principles of home rule and local determination.

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