

Workers Comp 2

TEXAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE INTERGOVERNMENTAL RISK POOL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 14, 2015

Statement by Carol Loughlin, Executive Director of the Texas Municipal League Intergovernmental Risk Pool, on the decision by the hearing officer in the case of Bedford firefighter Keith Long:

“Our hearts go out to Lt. Long and his family and we admire his dedication to serving his fellow citizens by continuing to work while battling colon cancer. Situations like this involving a dedicated, long-time public employee are very difficult for everyone involved, especially for the family, friends and co-workers. And it is difficult for us when we have to make decisions based on the law rather than our sympathies and emotions.

“After carefully considering the decision of the hearing officer, we filed an appeal because the decision is contrary to the guidelines set forth in state law for deciding whether an illness is associated with firefighting. Colon cancer is not one of the cancers identified as having been caused by firefighting.

“Lt. Long’s medical expenses have been covered and they will continue to be covered but this case does not qualify for workers compensation benefits according to the laws we are required to follow.”