

APROA - Statement of Interest – Dennis Farris

Fellow retirees,

I am officially a candidate for president of the APROA as of today's general membership meeting. The association is a position to advocate for a number of important causes during this critical period while continuing to build on our history as a fraternal organization. My goals for the association include increasing membership by connecting with eligible non-members to grow interest and knowledge of the organization, advocating for our benefits – both those provided by the city and those we've earned being honorably retired, and utilizing political endorsements for association-backed candidates on the local and state level.

Given the current anti-police dynamic in Austin, it is important to acknowledge how quickly the landscape of our retirements could change. The city could drastically alter our medical and dental insurance should they choose, building on their disastrous actions to defund APD and cut 150 positions. Beyond that, the resignations, vacancies, and cancelled cadets classes are bodies that will never be eligible to join the APROA or contribute to the fiscal health of the retirement system.

The current environment in which active officers serve is heavily influenced by the decisions being made by the Austin City Council. With six of the 11 council positions (including mayor) up for election during the next cycle, it is vitally important for us to get involved and make law enforcement a front-and-center issue. The outcome of these races will have a tremendous impact on both retired and non-retired sworn. We must continue to be our brothers and sisters keepers, even after hanging up our own duty belts.

I understand that this is the first contested race in the APROA's history. I wish that were not the case. I deferred to the current president two years ago when he requested I wait to run to allow him to serve for a single term with the understanding that I would campaign for the position in 2021. After following through on my promise, it is now my intention to move forward with my commitment to run. As such, I would appreciate your vote.

The ballots will be mailed out by October 1. In order to be counted, the completed ballots must be postmarked by October 20. APROA members may also bring their ballot to the November 10 meeting.

I invite you to reach out to me through my email on the APROA web page should you have questions or wish to talk further about my candidacy.

Fraternally
Dennis #2175
78th Cadet Class