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## ICYMI: "Sick time, days off payouts for retiring Elmwood Park police chief, six officers totals \$1.2M"

Wednesday, January 4, 2011

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From The Bergen Record

Nick Clunn

January 4, 2011

"The Elmwood Park police chief and six other officers who retired at year's end are owed a combined \$1.2 million for unused sick days and other time off — a contractual obligation that taxpayers are likely to absorb this year, officials said. ...

"Donald Ingrasselino, the former police chief, is by far owed the most among the seven officers — \$289,264 for his unused time during his 36 years as a public employee. That's on top of an estimated annual pension of \$148,700, state figures show.

"Ingrasselino could not be reached for comment Tuesday.

"The officers were entitled to claim cash for unused time off at retirement under a contract between the police officers' union and the borough. Officers were paid for unused sick time, vacation time, compensatory time and terminal leave, an entitlement based on years on the force that is only paid upon retirement. Ingrasselino's entitlements were dictated by his contract with the borough.

"Officers in Elmwood Park were able to cash out because the borough, unlike some other Bergen County municipalities, does not cap the amount of sick and vacation time pay that an employee can claim. ...

"Gov. Christie last month made a last-ditch bid to persuade lawmakers to end payouts to public employees for unused sick and vacation time. Bergen County municipalities combined have a liability of nearly \$91.8 million when sick time and vacation payouts are totaled, the governor said during a Dec. 9 visit to Teaneck. ..."

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