



The City of New York

Queens Community Board 11

Serving the Communities of Auburndale, Bayside, Douglaston, Hollis Hills
Little Neck and Oakland Gardens

Paul DiBenedetto Chairperson / **Joseph Marziliano** District Manager

To: All Board Members

From: Karen Mazza, Government Affairs/Legal Committee Chair

Date: September 30, 2025

Re: A Letter of Support to Protect the Vested Health Insurance Coverage and Contributions of employees of the City of New York.

On September 30, 2025, the Government Affairs/Legal Committee met to discuss the above referenced.

Board Members

Paul DiBenedetto – Board Chair

Karen Mazza - Committee Chair

Henry Euler – 2nd Vice Chair

George Hadjiconstantinou – Committee Member

Fleur Martino – Committee Member

Christina Scherer

John Sullivan

Mohan Jethwani

CB11 Staff

Joseph Marziliano, District Manager

Christina Coutinho, Community Associate

Quest

Leela Fiorino

Ms. Mazza, a City of New York retiree, explained how the City currently provides health insurance coverage to NYC retirees with over 10 years of service, covering spouses, domestic partners, and children 26 years of age and younger. Once the retiree turns 65 years old, they are put on Medicare, and the City reimburses anywhere from \$2,200 to \$7,500 annually to retirees for their Medicare cost. Several years ago, the City, to save money towards active employees, put all retirees on Medicare Advantage. An organization for retirees sued and this case went to highest court in the State. The Court of Appeals referred the case back to New York County. Currently, there is no action from the Supreme Court. In the interim, there is a proposed law that was introduced in the City Council. This proposal was referred by the Civil Service and Labor Committee in October to prohibit the City from changing the model of

Medicare and the reimbursement for retirees and prohibit the City from increasing the retiree's payment for Medigap Insurance.

Ms. Mazza introduced Leela Fiorino, a City of New York retiree, who discussed the history of how union representatives and the mayors negotiated City employees' health coverage. Ms. Fiorino said this was done originally to switch retirees to a Medicare Advantage Plan. This was not an attempt to save money, but rather a result of unions and the active mayor agreeing to redirect funds from the Health Stabilization Fund to provide pay increases for active employees. This left insufficient funds for retiree's benefits. If the originally law passes, City retirees on a fixed income will not be able to afford medical care, nursing home living is not covered, and deductibles will increase. Majority of City retirees are making less than 30k annual income.

Ms. Fiorino said that NYC Organization of Public Service Retirees is seeking support from community boards to maintain traditional Medicare coverage. The Committee discussed how there are several proposals on the table regarding City employees' benefits. Fleur Martino and Karen Mazza are both abstaining with a reason. A motion was made to support current and future efforts to protect New York City retirees right to the same healthcare benefits by Henry Euler. The motion was seconded by George Hadjiconstantinou. A Committee vote was taken resulting in three in favor and two abstentions for cause. The motion passed. This will go before the full Board at the October 6, 2025, meeting.

The meeting adjourned.