



May 1, 2023

Greetings Brother and Sister Retirees:

I hope this message finds all of you in good spirits and most of all good health. On April 11, 2023, the Retirees Association was in attendance at a Healthcare rally being held at City Hall that was organized by the NYC Organization of Public Service Retirees to promote a bill introduction that would ensure the continuance of health care for some 250,000 retired City employees.

It was a nice day and a good turnout of protesters who were extremely vocal about maintaining their present health care benefits. Marianne Pizzitola led the charge as numerous attendees spoke out in opposition to the MLC and City's plan to eliminate GHI Senior Care and replace it with either the AETNA plan or HIP VIP (Metro area only) or by opting out and utilizing Medicare only that MAY ONLY cover 80% of the medical bill in addition to losing the Medicare Part B reimbursement and the IRMAA reimbursement (if you fall under the IRMAA penalty). Approximately fifty (50) persons were permitted inside chambers to witness the City Council proceedings.

Today, I am asking our membership to continue contacting their local representatives and ask that they continue to oppose any changes to their present health care coverages. It is of the utmost importance that NYC Retirees maintain pressure on both the City Council members and the NYC Comptroller Brad Lander to continue their opposition to the proposed Retiree healthcare changes – also, please be advised that the NYC Comptroller's Office is taking a survey of those either opposed or in favor of the AETNA plan. Please call 1 212 669-3916 and let your voice be counted.

During our General Membership meeting on April 25, 2023, there were numerous questions regarding retiree individual healthcare issues. I STRONGLY recommend that retirees with questions regarding their particular/personal issues contact either the NYC Office of Labor Relations (at 1-212-513-0470 between the hours of 9am thru 5pm, Monday – Friday) OR AETNA’s dedicated call center (at 1-855- 648-0389 between the hours of 8am thru 9pm, Monday thru Friday). At both offices you will receive a reliable response to your questions “straight from the horse’s mouth.” As I have previously stated, litigation attorneys are costly. Those individuals wishing to make donations of any amount may do so by contacting - nycretirees.org/active-employees.

I would like to take this opportunity to WELCOME/INTRODUCE our newest staff member to our office at 75 Maiden Lane. She is Sheila Rabb, and you may contact her at 1-212-815-1782. Welcome aboard Sheila. Stay well and Stay safe.

In Solidarity,

Bob Gervasi

President, DC 37 Retirees Association