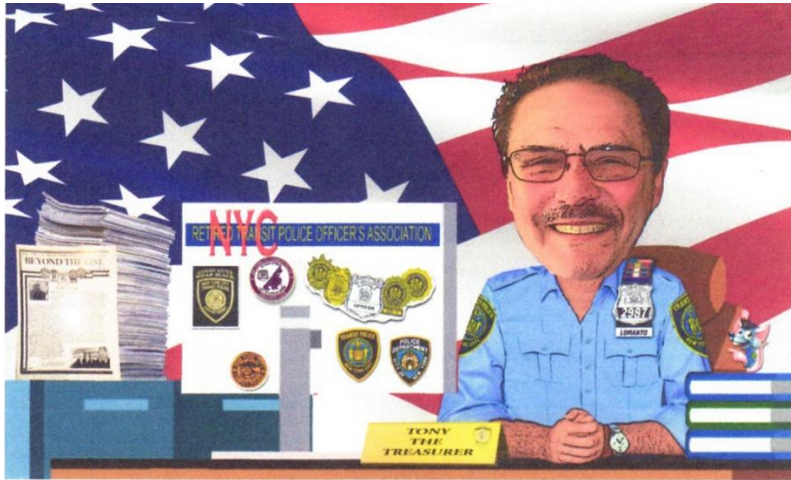


NYC RETIRED TRANSIT POLICE OFFICER'S ASSOCIATION



Thanks to Ret. PO Russell Leibold russelljleibold@yahoo.com for sending this information:

BLUE MASS CELEBRATION

On Wednesday, November 20th, at 6:00PM, there will be a special "Blue Mass" being celebrated for all active, retired, and deceased Police Officers.

It will take place at St. Theresa Church located on Victory Blvd and Slosson Avenue in Staten Island.

Parking is available and refreshments will be served after the mass.

It would be nice to see a large turnout for this mass.

Fraternally,
Bob Valentino, President

UPDATE FOR RETIREES MEDICAL COVERAGE

www.nyc.gov/site/olr/health/retiree/health-retiree-responsibilities-assistance.page

Annual Fall Transfer Period

This year, the annual transfer period will be held November 1st - November 30th for retirees.

Any changes made during the annual transfer period will become effective in January 2025.

Retiree Transfer Notice

To learn more about the Health Plans offered, please visit the Plans & Rates page for the following information:

www.nyc.gov/site/olr/health/summaryofplans/summaryofplanshome.page#retireeplans

Health Plan Rate Chart for Employees and Retirees

Summary Program Description (SPD)

Summary of Benefits and Coverage (SBC)

Links to the Health Plans' websites for additional health plan and contact information

Information and Update: \$15 copays to resume January 1, 2025, for the Emblem Health-GHI portion of the GHI/Anthem Senior Care Plan

Senior Care members—As you may know, \$15 copays for the Emblem Health-GHI portion of the GHI/Anthem Senior Care Plan were previously suspended by court order. Now, in accordance with a more recent court order, \$15 copays will resume on January 1, 2025.

Senior Care members will receive a new ID card before January 1, 2025.

Judge Lyle Frank allowed the co-pays to resume after the City and Emblem Health came up with a new contract. The Organization of Public Service Retirees is allowed to argue the merits of the case in both the State and Federal courts.

We highly recommend donations be sent to the Organization of Public Service Retirees that will allow them to continue with the legal actions against NYC. Go to their website nycretirees.org for instructions.

This is the article in The Chief from Marianne Pizzitola, President of the NYC Organization of Public Service Retirees, explaining how this whole fiasco started.

When retirees talk about the "Big Lie," they are referring to the ruse that the city forcing retirees off traditional Medicare and into Medicare Advantage will save money. It has been repeated so often that electees and journalists say it but it is not true.

Here is the proof that Medicare Advantage does not save money. And to that end, I never thought I would have lived to see unions agree to give up health care and pass costs to workers and make them jump through hurdles to access medical care, but this is what the leaders of the Municipal Labor Committee did.

The other "Big Lie" is unions collectively bargain for retirees. That is false on its face as state and city law only allows a union to bargain for wages, hours and work conditions. Retirees do not have those. Instead, what they are really saying is that they want to be able to liquidate the benefits of a current retiree to fund their contract.

Over the last three years, even after begging the current City Council to do the right thing, as Councils had before this one, and protect retirees' health care, our pleas were blatantly ignored - defiantly at times — and they accepted the lies a few union leaders have spread.

In fact, had anyone listened to our presentation, they would have known that in 1967, a personnel order from Mayor John Lindsay gave city employees health care paid for by the city could not grant the same benefit to retirees in the same way. Why? Because they were not employees and were not represented by unions. Lindsay, in effect, had to legislate health care for retirees. He enlisted two councilmen to do it. The Council then passed a law known as 12-126 of the NYC Administrative Code. Since then, the law has been amended a few times by the City Council, for instance to extend health care to spouses of deceased workers and to ensure premium reimbursement.

The Independent Budget Office testified in 2021 and 2023 before the Council that the shift would not save money. In 2023, Council Member Charles Barron invited NYC Organization of Public Service Retirees attorney Jake Gardener and me to appear before the Council Progressive and Brooklyn Caucuses to explain our position. We were questioned why we were asking them to get involved! They had no knowledge that Lindsay and the Council had legislated health benefits for retirees that were not collectively bargained, which is why the Council passed all previous bills to maintain Medicare B Reimbursement over the years to protect current retirees. Council Member Althea Stevens even asked the IBO what savings would be achieved by this change. The reply was that legislation introduced by Barron to preserve our benefits would have no financial impact to the city and because current retirees' health care is legislated, and funding is mandated by statute.

Look in any collective bargaining agreement, nothing speaks to current retiree benefits — and that is because retirees are not in unions — but the labor leaders of yesterday ALWAYS protected these benefits — until recently.

Medicare retirees' health plan only pays 20 percent of their medical bills, unlike an active worker where the plan pays 100 percent. Medicare retirees are the least expensive to the city. What the United Federation of Teachers and District Council 37, together with several other city unions, agreed to do was privatize a federal public health benefit, eliminate choices of plans for everyone, force everyone into managed care with a narrow network of doctors and hospitals, and allow managed-care corporation Aetna to be a gatekeeper between retirees and the treatment and tests doctors order. That does not exist with traditional Medicare. The value of the senior care plan that was sold back to the City was going into a pot of money that was often misused by the Municipal Labor Committee and mayors and paid for raises for active workers.

There is no nice way to say that. Some union leaders led the push to literally sell off the choice of health plans of retired unionists to fund their contracts. Many unions in the MLC were angry over this, but because of the weighted voting structure (every union gets one vote for every 250 members). Essentially, DC37 and the UFT can pass motions on their own without the backing of the other 100 unions that make up the MLC.

The MLC can act like a coalition but has no bargaining rights unless the unions in the coalition agree to participate in the coalition and convey their bargaining power to the MLC. A fairer vote would be one union, one vote since EVERY union member is valuable. The two largest municipal unions — who sold the fib that the privatized version of Medicare was “enhanced” and

“better” than traditional Medicare — should not be making decisions that negatively impact smaller unions.

I am going to say this loud and clear to every union worker reading this paper: Your future health benefits are at stake unless you get involved and protect what was promised to you!

To fund the UFT contract in 2014, and the DC37 contract in 2018, they liquidated retiree health care benefits and tried to privatize federal Medicare. Shocking, right? More so is that this shift to privatizing Medicare and pushing us all into one plan (with a narrow network where the insurer becomes a gatekeeper delaying and denying the care your doctor orders) is the default plan in the Project 2025 blueprint the national unions have denounced. Why then are the City and the leaders of the MLC trying to implement this?

Once you retire, the maximum cost of living adjustment you will ever receive is \$540 a year. If the MLC continues to pass copays and deductibles on to retirees and forces us to pay for our doctors because they are not in the network of the single plan they want for us, you will never be able to afford to go to the doctor.

LATEST UPDATE FROM THE RECENT ELECTION

Good afternoon, Retirees & Retirees in training!

The three elected officials we helped support their campaigns all won their election!

Thank you to everyone who helped Assemblywoman Stacey Pheffer Amato (AD 23), Senator Jessica Scarcella-Spanton (SD 23), and Senator Peter Harckham (SD-40).

These public servants have demonstrated unwavering commitment to our cause, recognizing the importance of preserving our hard-earned benefits. They understand that our traditional Medicare benefits are not just a privilege but a right we have earned through our years of dedicated public service.

JIM WALDEN: NYC MAYORAL CANDIDATE

Jim Walden is the founding partner of Walden, Macht, Haran and Williams, the firm from which our attorney Jake Gardener is from. Jim has quite an impressive resume and reached out to us when he decided to run for Mayor to see what NYC Retirees issues were. He listened. He asked us what were three things we would address with the Mayor if we could. We had lengthy conversations about the history of each of these. He understood the issues.

We have long stated that any candidate that supports us and is willing to stand to protect retirees, is a candidate we can support. It is a rarity to see a candidate for office speak their convictions and is willing to stand by it - and put it in writing! Given this support, we will be supporting his campaign for Mayor!

We told Jim how we have been flip flipped on before - he said he is not that kind of person and will not do that. He wanted to assure us, so he made this pledge:

Walden for Mayor

Our City. Your Future. www.jimfornyc.com

SPECIAL MESSAGE #4

Public Service Retiree Community

“The moral test of government is how that government treats those who are in the dawn of life, the children; those who are in the twilight of life, the elderly; those who are in the shadows of life, the sick, the needy and the handicapped.”

– Hubert Humphrey, 38th Vice President of the United States (1965-69)

For over half a century, New York City’s mayors and other elected officials promised and provided City workers top-notch City-funded health insurance coverage. Countless municipal employees dedicated their lives to—and, in many cases, risked their lives for—this City based on that promise. The current City Hall administration, and its immediate predecessor, tried to deny these promised benefits to those who need them the most: elderly and disabled retirees. In my Administration, I will honor the City’s longstanding commitment to retirees. I will do three things:

First, my Administration will protect retirees’ access to traditional Medicare and a Medicare supplement, paid for by the City. This is what they earned and were promised.

Second, I will restore the timing of Medicare reimbursement checks, so that retirees do not have to wait a year for their checks.

Third, I will present a bill to the Speaker of the City Council—similar to the bill first introduced by Councilman David I. Weprin in 2005 (Int 0728-2005)—protecting the healthcare of municipal retirees’ spouses after the retiree’s death. Then-Public Advocate Betsy Gotbaum, a legendary New York public servant, co-sponsored Weprin’s bill, so you can trust that the measure makes good sense.

This is my promise. You have it in writing. Hold me accountable.

Other candidates should commit to this policy. If they refuse, hold them to account.

- Jim Walden, Candidate for Mayor

Note: This is fourth of a series of “special messages” on my plans as Mayor.

He understands we are still funding litigation, so if you choose to make a donation to elect Jim as Mayor, a \$5, \$10, \$15 donation is generous and hopefully helps put someone in City Hall that will truly represent the people!

We hope this information will prove useful to our members and we look forward to seeing many of you at our annual Christmas and Holiday Party on Wednesday, December 11th at 11:30AM at Verdi's Caterers in Westbury Long Island.

There will be a door charge of \$30 for members or guests that will include Verdi's famous hot & cold buffet, unlimited beer, wine, and soda, a full Open Bar, coffee & tea, cookies & pastries, and the 50/50 raffle.

Fraternally,

Bib Valentino, President

2025 FLORIDA REUNION



Contacts

Transit Police Florida Reunion 2.0
Next Reunion August 3rd-7th, 2025

Joe Wolff	347-386-3439
Ted Dempsey	917-991-8577
Lou Hollander	727-207-4323
John Carruso	352-650-7385
Noel Negron	813-690-9690
Benny Berg	732-766-5247
Christine McIntyre	561-703-0349

www.transitpolicereunion.com

Tony Lomanto, Treasurer NYCRTPOA
State Trustee FOP Lodge 317
alomanto@optonline.net