

Dear Detective,

As I announced at the Delegates' meeting on February 3rd at the Annual DEA Convention, it is with deep emotion that I announce that I will not be seeking re-election as President of the DEA in 2024. To do so would not be in the best interests of the Union and its membership, because I will be aging out within a few months and would not be able to fulfill another complete term as President. We have an election for DEA leadership coming up this spring and the process will be commencing shortly.

I was privileged to become President of this incredible Union during one of the most difficult times in the history of the NYPD and the City of New York. In 2020, shortly after I took over the helm of the DEA, we were faced with an international pandemic which locked down the City. We were in the midst of the rapid, uncontrollable spread of a highly contagious and deadly virus when an unfortunate incident occurred many states away in Minnesota, causing anti-police riots across the country, including in New York City. The bi-product of these riots was a national "defund the police" movement which led to more anti-police legislation in the State of New York.

Regardless of the lack of support for law enforcement from politicians and the press, the DEA and its hardworking Board of Officers accomplished a remarkable amount for this Union in the past four years.

For the first time in our Union's history, we made equitable our supplemental health insurance benefits for both our active members and our retirees by instituting a new dental program with Cigna and a new prescription drug program with Express Scripts that realized approximately \$18-million in savings which will be utilized to enhance other benefits, such as our optical (eyeglass) program, which we will be rolling out shortly. We also made arrangements for a new health screening program for the detection of cancer and cardiac issues at Northwell Health Systems

On the labor front, we began filing litigation against the cop-hating CCRB and any individuals who assault our Detectives while they are trying to do their jobs. We fought for, and secured, line of duty death benefits and status for our eight active Detectives who passed away from COVID-19, and secured line of duty disability (3/4s) retirement benefits for long-term COVID. Recently, we were successful in securing health benefits for life for those Detectives, like Det. First Grade Dalsh Veve, who suffered catastrophic, life-threatening injuries on the job and are on the Mayor's Exempt list.

We increased our public relations and advertising, and opened social media accounts with You Tube, Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter (now called X). We've also enhanced our support and contact with our line of duty families, running several events throughout the year and creating a new electronic memorial at the DEA headquarters building on Thomas Street to honor our fallen heroes.

It has been my honor — and the privilege of a lifetime — to lead this Union as President. I've been a Union representative for most of my 40 years on the job. I was elected PBA Delegate, beginning in 1989, representing the Brooklyn South Task Force and then Brooklyn South Narcotics. Once I earned my gold shield, I became the DEA's Delegate from Brooklyn South Narcotics, and then OCID. In 1999, I was elevated to the

position of DEA Sergeant-at-Arms. I took over the Treasurer's position in June of 2004, and was elected Vice President of the DEA in 2012.

While we have faced many challenges, there is always much to be proud of and nothing can ever compare to the sense of purpose one has in helping to make the lives and careers of our members and their families better.

I have no doubt that when I depart in June, the next team who takes the helm of the DEA will build on our many accomplishments and take the Union to new heights. The majority of the new slate running for election in 2024 already has experience as part of our current DEA team.

Because the City faces so much uncertainty, one thing our members can always count on is that the Detectives' Endowment Association will always be there for them and will always be fearless in championing their rights.

Again, I thank you for allowing "me" to represent "you" — "The Greatest Detectives in the World."

Fraternally,

Paul DiGiacomo  
President