

Speaker Adams and NYC Council Members  
City Hall  
New York, NY 10007

Re: Retiree Health Care

September 7, 2023

Dear Speaker Adams and City Council Members:

We write to you as former NYC union officials who had the privilege of representing NYC employees who now need your help. During our years of service in our unions, we worked hard to ensure our future health and pension benefits were protected. As you know, the City is attempting to force all Medicare-eligible retirees into a for-profit managed care plan. **Five court decisions** have already ruled in our favor telling the City that what they are attempting to do is illegal. Absent legislation from City Council, the City will keep trying to reduce retiree healthcare benefits.

The Municipal Labor Committee (MLC) and others are being less than truthful in telling you that supporting Intro 1099-2023 is an attack on collective bargaining. **We strongly disagree with that statement. As former labor officials, we have the utmost respect for collective bargaining.** However, collective bargaining cannot conflict with federal, state or municipal laws and retirees cannot bargain. **Very simply, the Taylor law specifically prohibits unions – or the MLC, from bargaining for retired employees.**

The NY State Legislature has repeatedly passed laws – principally through the NY State Labor Law – protect workers' health and safety. Similarly, the NYC City Council has repeatedly passed laws that protect workers – and the best example is Administrative Law §12-126 which guarantees that workers, retirees, and their dependents' health insurance will be paid for by the City. The protections of these laws cannot be diminished through collective bargaining. They provide a “floor” of protection that collective bargaining can only build upon, not diminish.

Similarly, Medicare is guaranteed by federal legislation created in 1965 and signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson. Our retired members paid into Medicare their entire career with a guarantee from the Government that they would have access to Medicare in their golden years when they had limited incomes. Medicare, like Social Security, is not just an entitlement but a benefit paid by our members to protect them and provide access to health care in their golden years. The City made that same promise to us during our tenure.

**As you know, unions certainly have the right to bargain for current employees who will become future retirees. But in no way would any of us negotiate for current retirees, because that is illegal.** The City's plan now is to force our retirees into an inferior for-profit, healthcare plan managed by Aetna. That plan denies our members the right to see any Medicare provider and forces them to get approvals from a for-profit healthcare management system. **Ask yourself a simple question: how does Aetna generate a profit from a government-run health care system? The answer is simple: on the backs of our retirees, by denying them access to procedures and tests without their approval.** At a time when many progressive politicians are supporting Medicare for all, NYC wants to deny retired NYC employees' access to Medicare

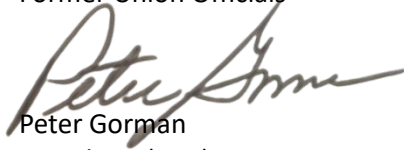
without the approval of a for-profit, healthcare manager. It is simply wrong and violates the promises made to them.

Retired NYC employees dedicated themselves to serving our great City, they kept us safe, educated our children, provided medical care, kept our streets clean and provided a host of other essential services to the citizens of New York City. We now need your support to protect our Medicare that was promised and guaranteed.

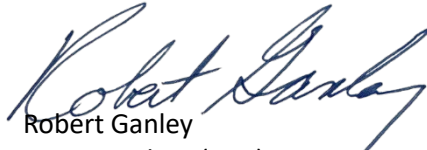
**PLEASE HELP THEM AND SUPPORT INTRO 1099-2023.**

Respectfully,

Former Union Officials



Peter Gorman  
President (Ret.)  
Uniformed Fire Officers Association/FDNY



Robert Ganley  
Vice President (Ret.)  
Sergeants Benevolent Association/NYPD  
Deputy Commissioner NYPD (Ret.)



Thomas Scotto  
President (Ret.)  
Detectives Endowment Association/NYPD  
National Association of Police Organizations



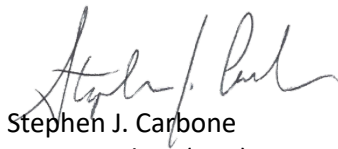
Thomas Von Essen  
President (Ret.)  
Uniformed Firefighters Association/FDNY  
Commissioner FDNY (Ret.)



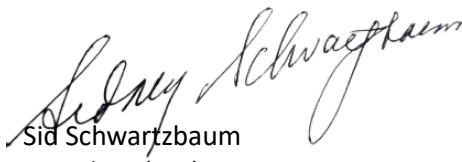
Alexander Hagan  
President (Ret.)  
Uniformed Fire Officers Association/FDNY



Thomas Drogan  
President (Ret.)  
Lieutenants Benevolent Association/NYPD



Stephen J. Carbone  
Vice President (Ret.)  
Uniformed Fire Officers Association/FDNY



Sid Schwartzbaum  
President (Ret.)  
Assistant Deputy Wardens/Deputy Wardens Association  
/NYCDOC



William Mirro  
Recording Secretary (Ret.)  
Uniformed Firefighters Association/FDNY



Santos Crespo  
President (Ret.) Local 372  
Vice President, DC37, AFSCME



Gary DeRosa  
Financial Secretary (Ret.)  
Sergeants Benevolent Association/NYPD



Israel Miranda  
President, Secretary (Ret.)  
Local 2507, DC37 EMTs



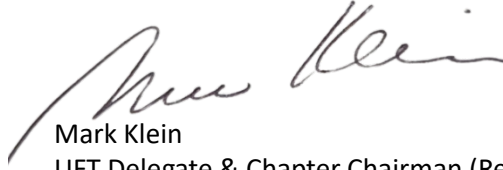
Dominick Martino  
President (Ret.)  
Local 1506, DC37 AFSCME  
Vice President, Local 1508/Parks




Phil Seelig  
President (Ret.)  
Corrections Officers Benevolent Association/NYCDOC  
Vice Chair of the MLC 1979-1992



Bill Romaka  
Health & Safety Officer (Ret.)  
Uniformed Firefighters Association/FDNY



Mark Klein  
UFT Delegate & Chapter Chairman (Ret.)  
UFT, Local 2, AFT, AFL-CIO



Thomas Schechter  
Delegate (Ret.)  
Central Labor Council Rep.  
Local 371, DC37, AFSCME



Rachel Cohn  
UFT Chapter Leader (Ret.)  
UFT, Local 2, AFT, AFL-CIO



Brian Wonsever  
Executive Board Member (Ret.)  
Local 2627, DC37 AFSCME



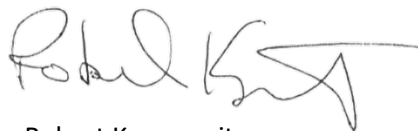
Ed Hysyk  
President (Ret.)  
Local 2627, DC37 AFSCME  
Secretary DC37, AFSCME  
DC37 Retirees President



Yolanda Pumarejo  
Executive Vice President (Ret.)  
SSEU Local 371, DC37, AFSCME



Gary M. Goldberg  
Secretary (Ret.)  
Corrections Officers Benevolent Association/NYCDOC



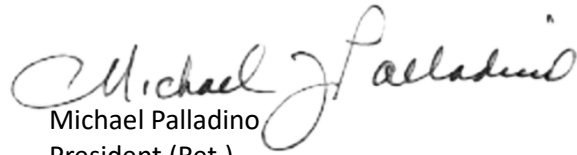
Robert Kazanowitz  
Vice President – Trustee Welfare Fund (Ret.)  
Council of School Administrators & Supv.  
CSA



John Dunne  
Executive Board Member (Ret.)  
Uniformed Fire Officers Association/FDNY



Theresa Roth  
Executive Board Member (Ret.)  
Shop Steward  
Local 1407, DC37, AFSCME



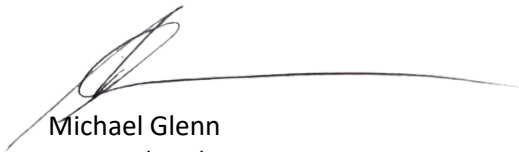
Michael Palladino  
President (Ret.)  
Detectives Endowment Association/NYPD  
NYS Association of PBA's



Tom LaMacchia  
Treasurer (Ret.)  
Uniformed Firefighters Association/FDNY



John Driscoll  
President (Ret.)  
Captains Benevolent Association/NYPD



Michael Glenn  
Trustee (Ret.)  
Local 3621, DC37  
Uniformed EMS Officers Union



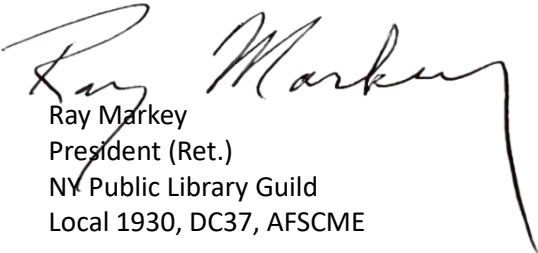
Karen Miller  
Trustee (Ret.)  
Civil Service Bar Association, Local 237




Joseph F. Bracco  
First Vice President (Ret.)  
Correction Officers Benevolent Association  
NYCDOC



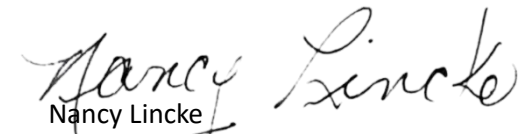
Thomas Farrell  
Legislative Chairman (Ret.)  
Correction Officers Benevolent Association/NYCDOC



Ray Markey  
President (Ret.)  
NY Public Library Guild  
Local 1930, DC37, AFSCME



Daniel L. Stromer  
Brooklyn Trustee (Ret.)  
Uniformed Firefighters Association/FDNY



Nancy Lincke  
Trustee - Executive Board (Ret.)  
Local 3621, DC37, AFSCME  
Uniformed EMS Officers Union