



Retired Public Employees Association

165 Jordan Road • Troy, NY 12205 • (518) 869-2542 • e-mail: mail@rpea.org
Diana M. Hinchcliff, *President* Edward C. Farrell, *Executive Director*
Representing the interests of 500,000 New York state and local government retirees

Testimony In Support of Maintaining Retiree Health Insurance

Edward C. Farrell, Executive Director

“The Retired Public Employees Association, representing the interests of state and local government employees, urges the City Council to maintain Administrative Code Section 12-126 in its current form.

The First District Appellate Court unanimously agreed with the Supreme Court that the Administrative Code protects the health insurance currently available to retirees. They are, indeed, wise justices.

Public employees work their entire career with the promise and expectation that when they retire, their existing benefits will be preserved. However, Mayor Adams’ proposal to move all retirees and beneficiaries out of traditional Medicare and switch them to a privately administered Medicare Advantage Plan would increase out-of-pocket expenses and reduce treatment options, since not all health providers accept Medicare Advantage. During his campaign for mayor, Adams called the proposal “bait and switch.” He was right then, and it’s still right now.

Having failed twice in court, the mayor and the Municipal Labor Committee, now you want to change the rules. You, the City Council, are the retirees’ last line of defense. On principle, RPEA strongly opposes diminishing health benefits for those who have already retired. Members of the Council, in your hearts, you know that this is just plain wrong.

We strongly urge you to maintain Section 12-126 as it pertains to current retirees. These retirees committed themselves throughout their careers to serve the people of the City. They have the correct expectation, that upon retirement, the benefits they earned will be there.

We urge to reject amending Section 12-126.”