



September 10, 2025

Re: Support for Nassau County Retirees

Dear Mr. Cohen and the Membership of the Nassau Retirees Legal Fund

I write in support of Nassau County retirees in their fight to protect the health benefits they worked for, paid for, and were promised. Public service employees often dedicate their careers in lower-paying jobs with the understanding that their pension and health benefits in retirement are guaranteed. These commitments are not perks, they are earned rights, embedded in Collective Bargaining Agreements (CBAs) and backed by law.

As a lifetime family member of Teamsters Local 812, I understand the importance of maintaining confidence in a plan that families have relied on for future life planning. Any changes made after the fact not only betrays retirees but also diminishes the morale of current employees and weakens efforts to maintain a thriving, dedicated workforce in Nassau County.

Unfortunately, despite the fact that retirees have relied on the benefits they were promised and are entitled to, their trust, as well as the trust of current employees has been breached.

Retirees upheld their end of the bargain through decades of public service. It is now the County's responsibility to honor its obligations. Anything less undermines the trust that generations of families have placed in Nassau County.

Sincerely,

Hon. Viviana L. Russell
Candidate for Nassau County Legislator, District 2

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