



Retired Public Employees Association

Representing the interests of 500,000 New York state and local government retirees
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December 20, 2024

Nassau Retirees Legal Fund
Scott Cohen
3824 Waverly Ave
Seaford, NY 11783

Dear Nassau Retirees Legal Fund Members and Nassau County Retirees,

The Retired Public Employees Association (RPEA), representing the interests of public sector retirees in New York, supports the efforts of Nassau Retirees Legal Fund. RPEA is concerned That Nassau County is seeking to lessen the value of the retiree's health insurance coverage. Upon retirement, retirees are no longer part of any bargaining unit. The law prohibits unions from representing both retirees and active employees simultaneously, so retirees could not have been part of the 2023 MOU negotiated between the County and the union of active employees.

- The CBA in effect at the time you retire governs your rights in retirement. Your CBA promised you County-paid health insurance that was vested for life with benefits that cannot be reduced, ever.
- The Collective Bargaining Agreement for retirees clearly states that health benefits cannot be diminished. The Federal Government defines the "benefit" as the healthcare items or services covered under a health insurance plan.
- The current negotiations between the CSEA union and the County has no effect on past retirees. Retirees are entitled to fully-paid health insurance for life, with benefits at least as good as the NYSHIP Empire Plan.

We urge the County Executive and the County Legislature to stand with retirees, who are among the most financially vulnerable individuals in our community by Publicly Standing down and leaving the retirees alone.

Retirees worked their entire career for the betterment of all Nassau County residents. They retired with the rightful expectation that their health benefits would not be diminished in retirement. We therefore support the Nassau Retirees Legal Fund efforts to make sure that retirees be allowed to maintain their current insurance, something that was promised and earned.

Sincerely,

Alan Dorn
RPEA Executive Director