



NYPD 10-13 CLUB



of BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

*An organization of retired
New York City Police Officers*

THE BLOTTER

*GENERAL MEETING Tuesday, March 01, 2022
Moose Lodge Family Center 6191 Rock Island Rd, Tamarac
Meeting starts at 7:00 PM Sharp
The President's Message*

PRESIDENT
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VICE PRESIDENT
Daniel Farrell
SECRETARY
Christine McIntyre
TREASURER
George Flores
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS
Thomas Puglisi
DIRECTORS
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Jonathan Greenberg
Warren Ostrofsky
Irving Rodriguez
Joe Scimeca
Phil Valles

PAST PRESIDENTS
Paul Mannino 1981
Sy Silver** 1982
Bill Schilling** 1983
Ray McDonnell** 1984/5
Mike Borrelli 1986/95/96
Ron Kavanagh** 1987/88/92
Paul Barasch 1989/2013
Bill Bett** 1990
Paul Levy** 1990/91
Frank Tooley ** 1993/94
Richard Lapp 1997/98
Robert Izzo 1999/00
Alan Berkowitz 2001/08/11/12
Louis Weiser** 2009/10

**DENOTES DECEASED

CHAPLAINS
Chaplain Michael J Calderin
LEGAL
Michelle Gomez, Esq.
Committees:
EDITOR
Warren Sam
HONOR GUARD
Joseph Scimeca
PROMOTIONS
Alan Berkowitz
Tom Puglisi
Tom Puglisi, Jr.
MEMBERSHIP
Phil Valles
COMMUNICATIONS
Phil Valles
WEBSITE
TBD
50 / 50 Raffle
Annette Finkelstein



The President's Message

Your next club meeting will be 6:30 P.M., Tuesday March 1st, 2022, at the Moose Lodge Family Center located at 6009 Rock Island Road Tamarac, FL. We had a fabulous turnout of over 60 people at the February meeting. Let's get NYPD friends to join. You probably know a handful of NYPD people living near you or interacting with you. Get them involved and joined. It's your club and we have to continue to grow to keep the club going. Please get people to join. Everyone seems to feel that someone else will do it. You and your efforts are integral and needed.

We've been having a wonderful time at the Moose Lodge and you should tell others about it. The Loyal Order of Moose (LOOM) are a great organization, dedicated to assisting orphans and senior citizens, by perpetuating a network of lodges that help to generate funding for the aforementioned greater good. Why wouldn't you join them as well? The Moose Lodge treats our club with the highest respect and continued admiration. They are pillars of the community.

Please ask your medical providers, professional providers and local merchants to sponsor meetings and/or advertise in THE BLOTTER magazine. The club address and ad prices are in the Blotter and sponsoring at meetings is \$150 to help pay for food and supplies which have increased in price, exponentially, in the last year. Get a sponsor and contact a board member...make a difference.

Several board members attended the national president's meeting in February and we discussed the issue of continuing and increasing club membership. Your Broward 10-13 board would like to thank the Hive on the Waterfront restaurant in Lantana for the great treatment we all received at the national president's meeting. Sal and his crew make excellent food, provide excellent service and the new restaurant is beautiful and comfortable. We shall all patronize the new Hive because it's that great! The Hive meeting was arranged/hosted by the Palm Beach 10-13 Club.

Recent decisions in New York have bad implications for the future of our retiree health plan costs and benefits. The new mayor doesn't seem to be as sympathetic to and for retirees, as we had hoped. Either he's forgotten where he developed or the pressure is too overwhelming. Either way, we're losing more and more. The national retiree associations are helpful by providing a voice in numbers. There's never a guaranteed outcome for lobbying, but a very large group will certainly be louder than a single voice. That's another important facet of 10-13ing. As always, we ask you to share advice, information and war stories of interest at meetings. Helping one another is the spirit of 10-13ing. Be healthy and happy.

- Martin

MEMBERSHIP 2022

Membership dues for 2022 are due.
Annual dues are \$40 or
\$45 for new members.
(That includes your annual dues of
\$40.00 plus \$5.00
initiation/reinstatement fee).

[NYPD Broward 10-13 Membership Application](#)



Your Broward Board, Police & City Numbers

Martin Finkelstein, Pres. 954-977-3880
Dan Farrell, VP. 954-871-7000
Christine McIntyre, Sec. 561-703-0349
George Flores, Treas. 347-992-1654
Thomas Puglisi, Sgt. AA 954-548-9872
Jonathon Greenberg 754-264-3093
Dennis Lytting, Dir. 954-973-3083
Warren Ostrofsky, Dir. 954-341-5575
Irving Rodriguez 646-773-5471
Joe Scimeca, Honor Guard 954-720-2111
Phil Valles, Mbrshp. 954-822-2824

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DEA NY Office 1-212-587-9120
PBA Toll free 1-877-844-5842
SBA 1-212-226-2180
LBA/CEA 1-212-964-7500
LBA/SOC 1-212-964-7500
ID card Section 1-646-610-5150
NYPD 10-13 Broward 1-954-977-3880

Social Security 1-800-772-1213
NYC Health Line 1-800-521-9574

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Frank Orefice – Emeritus 954-977-3880
Tim Kennedy 954-263-0798

Chaplain

Michael J Calderin 954-868-2957

Dr. John Halpern, Surgeon 954-553-1065
Michelle Gomez, Esq. 954-370-9970

Operations (Death) 1-646-610-5580

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VA benefits Assist 1-800-827-1000
Blue Cross of NY 1-800-433-9592

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 1-212-513-0470
 1-212-206-7300
Article 2 Pension 1-866-692-7733

Health & Welfare 1-212-608-9671
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NYCERS (Within NY) 347-643-3000
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Metro Pass: 347-643-8312/8310
NYCTP Retirees Assoc.: alomanto@optonline.net

Websites:

Medicare: www.medicare.gov
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Taps for departed members

Broward 10-13



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MEMBERSHIP 2022

Membership dues for 2022 are due.
Annual dues are \$40 or \$45 for new members.
(That includes your annual dues of \$40.00 plus \$5.00 initiation/reinstatement fee).

If you are a current member, please simply mail a check for \$40 to the address below. If you are not a member and would like to become a member, please complete the application on the next page and mail to the club at:

NYPD BROWARD 10-13 CLUB INC.
6009 NW 10th STREET
Margate, FL 33063
Telephone (954) 977-3880

You can also download a copy of the application by clicking this link:

[NYPD Broward 10-13 Membership Application](#)

Please include a check in the amount of \$45 made payable to: NYPD BROWARD 10-13 CLUB INC.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

INFORMATION FORM

NYPD BROWARD 10-13 CLUB INC.

6009 NW 10th STREET

Margate, FL 33063

Telephone (954) 977-3880

Fax (954) 977-6812

Date: _____

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City/State/Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell# _____

E-Mail Address: _____

D/O/B: _____

Spouse's Name: _____

Date of Appointment: _____

Date of Retirement: _____

Type of Retirement: Service Ordinary Medical Disability Vested

Previous Commands: _____

Sponsored By: _____

NEW MEMBERS SUPPLY A COPY OF ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

1. Retirement Card
2. Pension Card
3. Quarterly statement from the pension bureau

Dues: Be sure to include a \$45.00 Check, Payable to the NYPD BROWARD 10-13 CLUB INC. (That includes your annual dues of \$40.00 plus \$5.00 initiation/reinstatement fee).

NYC selects Anthem for retirees' coverage — after feds sue over alleged Medicare fraud

The healthcare insurer that the city recently chose to provide medical coverage for 275,000 retired workers is being sued by the US Justice Department for overcharging Medicare by millions of dollars.

The Manhattan US Attorney's Office brought the civil-fraud suit against Anthem in March 2020, and the case is still pending.

But that didn't stop former Mayor Bill de Blasio from selecting Anthem for local-government retiree coverage this past fall — or now-Mayor Eric Adams from signing off on the deal last week.

The fraud suit against Anthem alleges that the company did not clean up faulty data rendered by hospitals and other medical providers in its reimbursement claims submitted to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

"By ignoring its duty to delete thousands of inaccurate diagnoses, Anthem unlawfully obtained and retained from CMS [Center for Medicare Services] millions of dollars in payments under the risk adjustment payment system for Medicare Part C," a press release accompanying the suit said.

In Mayor Adams' statement last week supporting the selection of the Anthem/Blue Cross Shield and Emblem Health Alliance to run the city's Medicare Advantage Plus program, he called the deal "in the best interest of retirees and city taxpayers."

Adams was signing off on an agreement reached by de Blasio and the Municipal Labor Council, the coalition of unions representing retired government workers.

"The NYC Medicare Advantage Plus Plan unveiled last year — the product of many months of negotiations between the city and the Municipal Labor Committee, representing more than 100 unions — will continue to offer premium-free health coverage to retirees, along with new and enhanced benefits," Adams said.

"That is why after a careful and thorough review by my administration, I am announcing my support for this plan. I believe the new program will be in the best interest of retirees and the city's taxpayers, who stand to save \$600 million annually."

But a rival bidder, insurance giant Aetna, has sued the city alleging the selection process was fixed to favor Alliance, a consortium that includes Emblem Health and Anthem/Blue Cross Blue Shield and has strong ties to union leaders, to operate the new Medicare Advantage Plus program.

A group of retirees has filed a separate lawsuit to block the implementation of the new \$34 billion, 11-year Medicare supplemental program, claiming they are being forced into a new plan that costs more for fewer benefits.

Retired city workers are eligible for Medicare, the federally run program that provides health insurance for people who reach 65 — but their union contract also calls for the Big Apple to pick up the cost of their monthly premiums for Medicare Part B, which covers outpatient care as well as other supplemental services not covered by Medicare.

Retirees who are critics of the deal with Anthem said the alleged fraud cited by the federal government needs to be looked at by the city.

“This is extremely troubling. I hope the City Council conducts an investigation into how a company that’s accused of defrauding the federal government of millions ended up with a huge contract with the city,” said Sarah Shapiro of the Cross-union Retirees Organizing Committee, a group of city workers who have been petitioning elected officials to try and get Mayor Adams to stop the plan.

“I also hope that Comptroller [Brad] Lander rejects this contract. We expected this level of incompetence from Mayor de Blasio, but it’s very disappointing that Mayor Adams is following his lead,” she said.

City Hall and Anthem had no immediate comment.

Harry Nespoli, head of the Municipal Labor Council who negotiated and defended the Anthem deal, said he was not familiar with the lawsuit.

“It’s all in the lawyers’ hands,” he said.

To opt out of the NYC Medicare Advantage plan, you must complete the OPT OUT form. It can be printed and mailed to: NYC Medicare Advantage Plus Plan, PO Box 1620 New York, NY 10008-1620 OR it can be completed online:

[CLICK HERE FOR THE ONLINE VERSION OF NYC MEDICARE ADVANTAGE OPT OUT FORM](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR A PRINTED VERSION OF THE FORM THAT YOU CAN SEND TO THEM VIA US MAIL](#)

[Adams' Medicare Advantage Flip: From 'Bait & Switch' to 'Best' Thing for City Retirees](#)

More than 45,000 retired municipal workers have opted to keep their current Medicare coverage for a price instead of enrolling in a free, controversial new plan offered by Mayor Adams' administration — a situation one ex-city employee described as “a f-----g outrage” on Monday.

The new Medicare Advantage plan, which was first rolled out by former Mayor Bill de Blasio last September, has for months been a source of anxiety for many of the city's 250,000 retired workers who fear it could dilute their benefits. While retirees are automatically enrolled in the new plan, the city allows those who want to opt-out from it to keep their current coverage, known as Senior Care — but at a new \$191 monthly fee.

[De Blasio administration apologizes for confusing rollout of new health plan for retired NYC workers](#)

Despite the financial penalty, 45,646 retirees have declined the Advantage plan in favor of staying on Senior Care, according to data provided to the Daily News by City Hall.

The data show that the rate of opt-out filings picked up significantly after Feb. 6, the day [Adams announced](#) he would move ahead with implementing de Blasio's Advantage plan despite growing concern from retirees.

In the five days after Adams' announcement, 3,165 retirees submitted opt-out requests, with 925 filings on Feb. 9 alone, the data shows

Retired city workers gathered near City Hall in lower Manhattan, New York on Monday, Feb. 14, 2022, to tell New York City Mayor Eric Adams he's breaking their hearts with his plan to change their beloved Medicare coverage.

Hundreds of angry retirees gathered outside City Hall on Monday morning to protest Adams' embrace of the Advantage plan and urged him to shift course before April 1, when the program officially takes effect.

Many retirees at the demonstration who spoke with The News said they had already opted out or would do so in coming weeks if Adams doesn't have a change of heart.

“I'm probably going to end up having to bite the bullet and eat that money, which is a f-----g outrage, because I'm not going on that plan,” said Susan Metz, 78, a retired Brooklyn public school teacher.

In honor of Monday's holiday, protesters also signed a life-size Valentine's Day card addressed to Adams in which they pleaded with him to "not break our hearts" by pushing through the Advantage program.

"Mr. Mayor, if you have a heart, don't let Medicare Advantage start," they chanted.

Retired city workers gathered near City Hall in lower Manhattan, New York on Monday, Feb. 14, 2022, to tell New York City Mayor Eric Adams he's breaking their hearts with his plan to change their beloved Medicare coverage.

Adams, who missed the protest since he spent the day in Albany, has echoed de Blasio in arguing that the new Medicare plan will save city taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars per year because the federal government subsidizes Advantage programs at a higher rate.

In announcing his support for the Advantage plan earlier this month, Adams said a review by his administration confirmed it will continue to provide free Medicare coverage that's comparable to what retirees have benefitted from for years.

But Donna Armillas, a 78-year-old retired city schools supervisor, called bull on Adams' justification and said she's concerned that she would be denied care under the Advantage plan due to convoluted preauthorization procedures that did not exist under the old coverage.

"It's absolutely wrong. It is a bait and switch," said Armillas, who has already filed to keep her old plan at a \$191 monthly fee. "I want to be able to choose my doctors. I don't want to have to go through a process where I have to ask permission to have a procedure."

Barring a reversal from Adams, some retirees are holding out hope that the Advantage plan could be blocked in court.

The NYC Organization of Public Service Retirees, a group of ex-cops, firefighters and other municipal workers, have brought a lawsuit in Manhattan Supreme Court over the issue, mostly focusing on rectifying the city's bungled rollout of the new plan.

Steve Cohen, a lawyer for the group, has said his client is likely to eventually ask a judge to rescind the plan itself, arguing it violates longstanding city contracts.

Gloria Brannan, a retired teacher who spoke at Monday's rally, said she hopes the organization promptly escalates its court action.

"If Mayor Adams doesn't do the right thing, we will get the right result in court," she said.

The tough truth about NYC's Medicare Advantage plan

This month EmblemHealth and Blue Cross, Blue Shield placed full-page ads in the Daily News and nine other publications in the New York City and Palm Beach, Fla., area where many retirees live. The ads promote a Medicare Advantage plan for New York City retirees announced last July by comparing it favorably with the Senior Care plan that's currently the choice of 200,000, or 80% of NYC retirees. Why this ad blitz six months after the plan's rollout?

The immediate answer is that retirees organized and took the city to court last September, obtaining a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) which has delayed implementation from Jan. 1 until at least April 1. With this ad, the insurers — and implicitly the city — are telling the public and retirees that they are offering retirees a great deal. That ad is not the whole story.

This past summer, New York City announced agreement with its employees' unions to provide a new Medicare Advantage plan coupled with an EmblemHealth prescription drug plan with a \$125-per-month premium. As MA plans go, it is a good plan: \$0 monthly premium, a low \$1,450 out-of-pocket cap, and no difference in payments between in-and out-of-network providers. Like most, it has drawbacks, especially for retirees with serious medical problems: time-delaying pre-authorization procedures that can compromise or even deny needed care. Plus, there are providers that don't participate in MA plans.

Contrast that with the city's Senior Care plan — a supplemental Medigap policy to original Medicare — that covers service from *any* provider who accepts Medicare with no pre-authorization hurdles. This is why most NYC retirees, myself included, have chosen Senior Care.

But there were other factors that drove the retirees into court.

At the same time the Medicare Advantage plan was announced, the city presented two drastic changes to the Senior Care plan also to be effective Jan. 1, intended to move people over into the new Medicare Advantage plan.

Where there had been no monthly premium, a monthly premium of \$191.57 would be deducted from retirees' pension checks. This would be an insurmountable obstacle to many former low-paid employees and disproportionately impact persons of color. In issuing the TRO, the court said "this can only be described as a penalty"; most retirees call it blatant financial coercion into an unwanted health-care plan.

Second, a new Senior Care \$15 copayment would be applied on most services. The city would keep but no longer put any money into the Senior Care program. The city botched the roll-out of the Medicare Advantage plan. It was sprung on retirees with little warning; written materials and oral presentations often contained misleading information. Retirees were given too little time to decide whether to participate. Additionally, there was a gross failure to notify the provider community of the new MA plan.

In the language of the court's TRO: "the implementation of its [city's] program is irrational," and if implemented as planned "there would certainly be irreparable harm." Even today, more than six months later, retirees are reporting the providers they have used for years have no knowledge of the new plan or that they won't participate, creating great fear and anxiety among older retirees, many in their 80s and 90s.

This is where we are today. As the city considers how it plans to move forward, government officials and the public should consider some public policy issues this case has brought to light.

First, for decades the city has provided its retirees the opportunity to choose between managed care plans and the Senior Care supplement to Medicare. Should the city be allowed to deprive retirees of the real freedom of choice they have enjoyed like other citizens by coercing them into a plan they don't want?

Second, Social Security law prohibits a person enrolling in a Medicare Advantage plan from participating in a Medicare Part D drug plan of their choice. If an MA enrollee wants drug coverage, they have to take whatever separate drug plan the MA plan offers. If I accepted the city's MA plan, I would have to drop my current Part D plan with an estimated total cost for 2022 in premium and drugs of under \$600 — and enroll in the EmblemHealth drug plan, paying \$1,500 (\$125 per month for 12 months) for the premiums alone. This may be a good law for the insurance industry but certainly not for the Medicare beneficiary. Can this law be rescinded?

Third, who legally can represent and negotiate for retirees? A U.S. Supreme Court case and numerous New York State cases establish that unions represent employees, not retirees. The stark conflict of employee interests and retiree interests in the city's plan is clear to all. Retirees in the private sector are similarly vulnerable. The city's flawed roll-out of its Medicare Advantage program has unintentionally revealed these issues.

[How the Deaths of N.Y.P.D. Officers Have Shaped Eric Adams](#)

In his final days before taking office, Mayor Eric Adams made an unheralded visit to a Brooklyn church for a memorial service honoring two police officers killed in the line of duty seven years ago.

Mr. Adams did not speak at the event, nor did he hold a formal news conference. His visit was more personal than political.

Since his own days as a rookie officer in the 1980s, Mr. Adams has understood the dangers of policing and has mourned the deaths of friends and colleagues. The 2014 execution-style killings of the two officers, Wenjian Liu and Rafael Ramos, in Brooklyn were particularly devastating.

Mr. Adams, who was borough president at the time, visited Officer Liu's family shortly after he was killed, starting a relationship that has continued through Mr. Adams's rise to the mayoralty while helping to shape his nuanced view of policing. "I always want to remember, 'Stay focused, Eric,' because every decision we make about public safety is dealing with real people," Mr. Adams said in an interview last week at City Hall.

Now in his second month as mayor, Mr. Adams is again comforting grieving families after the killing of two other officers, Jason Rivera and Wilbert Mora, who had responded to a domestic dispute in Manhattan. Shortly after their deaths, Mr. Adams released a public safety plan that is meant to fulfill his campaign pledge to reduce gun violence while curbing police abuses.

The stakes are high for the mayor. President Biden visited New York on Thursday to highlight Mr. Adams's public safety agenda, and Mr. Adams's first term could be judged on whether he reduces the number of shootings in the city.

His predecessor, Bill de Blasio, faced perhaps the greatest crisis of his tenure with the killing of Officers Liu and Ramos in his first year in office. Officers turned their backs on him at their slain colleagues' funerals, and police leaders accused Mr. de Blasio of fueling anti-police sentiment after he described warning his biracial son, Dante, about encounters with the police.

The tone from officers has been very different this time, in part because of Mr. Adams's background in the Police Department and his relationships with officers and their families. Officer Liu's mother, Xiu Yan Li, said she believed Mr. Adams would support officers as mayor.

"He will protect the police and look out for them," she said.

In the Democratic primary, Mr. Adams sought to find a middle ground on policing. He rejected calls to "defund" the police and argued that he could improve safety while ousting abusive officers, an approach he said had grown out of his journey from a teenager beaten by the police to a police captain.

The delicate balance was on display in 2014, when, about a week after Officers Liu and Ramos were killed, Mr. Adams came to Mr. de Blasio's defense and called for unity. He wrote in Time magazine that funerals were "neutral zones" and that the officers turning their backs had engaged in a "display of misplaced anger" that would only "further divide our city."

Looking back, Mr. Adams said it was important to respect the symbol of the office of mayor and that the best way for officers to protest would be to vote against Mr. de Blasio.

"That was a very pivotal and tenuous moment that we had to be very careful about," Mr. Adams said.

His supporters also reflect his unusual background. Mr. Adams was endorsed by Abner Louima, who became a national symbol of police brutality in 1997 when an officer sexually assaulted him with a broomstick, and by William Bell, the father of Sean Bell, a young man who was killed in a hail of 50 police bullets in 2006. At the same time, Mr. Adams was among the candidates to be endorsed by the city's largest police union, the Police Benevolent Association, in the Democratic primary. Mr. Adams said that supporters of the police and those seeking reform are often in conflict but that he understands "both ends of the spectrum."

"That is why this moment is so interesting," he said. "This is a moment where a mayor understands public safety and justice."

But his plans to bring back plainclothes anti-crime units and his calls for harsher bail policies have prompted fierce criticism from police reform groups. The units, which were involved in a disproportionate number of fatal shootings, were disbanded in 2020 after protests following George Floyd's killing in Minneapolis.

One critic of Mr. Adams's safety plan is Kadiatou Diallo, whose son, Amadou Diallo, was killed in 1999 when plainclothes officers shot him 41 times. Ms. Diallo and Mr. Adams have known each other for years, and she said she planned to ask him for a meeting to discuss her concerns after marking the 23rd anniversary of her son's death last week.

The anti-crime units, Ms. Diallo wrote in an email, are designed to “aggressively target communities of color” and to employ “profiling, excessive force and harassment, no matter what uniform or equipment they use.”

Mr. Adams has insisted that the new version of the units would have more oversight, including body-worn cameras, and that officers would wear N.Y.P.D. windbreakers or other clothing that identified them.

When he announced his safety plan, Mr. Adams noted that he carries in his wallet a photo of Officer Robert Venable, a friend who was killed in 1987 during a shootout outside an abandoned Brooklyn building. Mr. Adams said the photo helps to remind him that shooting victims are more than crime statistics, a point driven home by his appearance in December at the seven-year memorial for Officers Liu and Ramos.

“He said, ‘I wanted to be here,’” Officer Liu’s wife, Sanny Liu, said in an interview. “I was shocked. I was not expecting him to show up and I appreciated that he was there.”

Mr. Adams first visited the Liu family late in 2014. He cried outside their home, in Brooklyn’s Bensonhurst neighborhood, telling The New York Daily News that the officer’s death was a “Shakespearean tragedy.”

“I told them they lost a son but they gained a son,” Mr. Adams said.

He has held true to that, visiting the family often over the years and inviting them to public events to honor Officer Liu.

The family also has a connection to Mr. Biden, who, as vice president, attended Officer Liu’s funeral. When Mr. Biden’s son Beau died in 2015, Officer Liu’s parents drove to Delaware for the wake and waited in line for hours to hug Mr. Biden — a moment Mr. Biden said stood out to him in a sea of mourners.

Officer Liu, a Chinese immigrant who was inspired to join the Police Department after the Sept. 11 attacks, had been married only a few months when he died. His wife asked the hospital to retrieve his sperm so that someday she might have his child. Their daughter, Angelina, is 4 now and she resembles her father. She and her mother recently visited Officer Liu’s parents for a lunch to celebrate the Chinese New Year. They talked about attending Officer Rivera’s funeral and meeting his widow and about how Mr. Adams was working to build an archway to honor Officer Liu in the Sunset Park neighborhood this year.

Mr. Adams said he viewed the officer's mother as his adopted mother, especially after his own mother's death last year.

On election night, he gave a victory speech in Brooklyn surrounded by political allies, the governor and his brother. He made sure another important person was onstage: Officer Liu's mother.

"She was part of my campaign — she was always out with me and supporting me, and she believed in what I stood for," Mr. Adams said. "Having her on that stage with me meant a lot, probably more for me than it did for her."

Comptroller Lander vows to 'carefully' scrutinize new Medicare plan for retired NYC workers as deadline nears

Comptroller Brad Lander's office pledged Thursday to "carefully" scrutinize the controversial Medicare plan that the city is attempting to impose on tens of thousands of retired municipal workers, weighing in on the convoluted issue as a critical enrollment deadline looms less than two months away.

Lander, who as comptroller has the authority to refuse to register municipal health care contracts, is "sympathetic to the concerns" of some retired city workers who fear the new so-called Medicare Advantage Plus plan could curtail access to certain doctors and medical procedures, a spokeswoman for his office said. "He doesn't believe the city should achieve needed long-term savings by stiffing retirees for their health care," the spokeswoman said. "When the contract gets to our office, we will review it carefully."

Before Lander gets his say, Mayor Adams must send over the Medicare Advantage contract to the comptroller's office for registration. City Hall has said for weeks that Adams is "actively reviewing" the issue, though it remains unclear whether he will amend the contract in any way.

The health care switch was initiated last fall by former Mayor de Blasio's administration, which argued that the new plan would save city taxpayers \$600 million per year thanks to a larger influx of federal funds as compared to the current Medicare coverage provided to retirees. The city also says some of the savings will come from the new plan being administered by a joint private provider known as Alliance.

But the rollover — which impacts about 250,000 retired municipal workers, including cops and firefighters — prompted a lawsuit from the NYC Organization of Public Service Retirees, which argued the new plan would water down their Medicare coverage by, among other issues, instating new preauthorization procedures. The lawsuit prompted a judge to push back a deadline for retirees to opt-out from the new Medicare coverage until April 1 and demand that the city rectify its “irrational” rollout of the plan. The legal battle remains ongoing.

As it currently stands, retirees who opt to keep their current coverage instead of being automatically enrolled in the Medicare Advantage plan would have to pay a \$191 monthly penalty — and the leader of the retiree group said that should be reason enough for Lander to reject the contract.

“Just don’t sign it,” said Marianne Pizzitolla, a retired FDNY emergency medical specialist who serves as the president of the retiree organization. “The city subverted the traditional process. They’re skirting so many different rules and procedures.” Though Lander has the power to reject the new plan, the City Charter stipulates that the mayor “may require registration” of a contract despite the comptroller’s objections.

Meantime, the anxious retirees are getting backing from a small group of local elected officials who issued an open letter to Adams last week arguing that working-class retirees will bear the brunt of any adverse impacts from the Medicare Advantage rollover.

“Those with lower incomes, most particularly retirees who are women and those who are Black and brown, will have to accept this inferior private plan,” read the letter signed by State Assemblyman Robert Carroll (D-Brooklyn) and members Sandy Nurse of Brooklyn and Kristin Richardson Jordan of Harlem. “People will die so that the city can save money short-term.”

GOT QUESTIONS ABOUT CBD?

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COVID-19 Call Center available 24/7 (866) 779-6121 or email COVID-19@flhealth.gov

FOR INFORMATION ON FLORIDA COVID 19 TESTING SITES, [CLICK HERE](#)

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WHAT TO KNOW BEFORE VISITING STATE-SUPPORTED TESTING SITES



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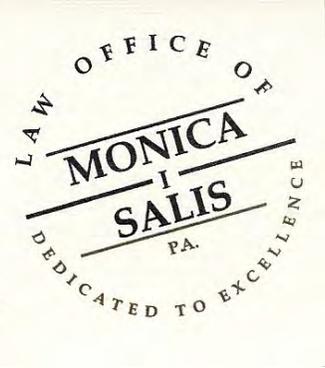
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City Coverage for Medicare-Eligible Retirees

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In order to maintain maximum health benefits, it is essential that you join Medicare Part A (Hospital Insurance) and Part B (Medical Insurance) at your local [Social Security](#) Office as soon as you are eligible. If you do not join Medicare, you will lose whatever benefits Medicare would have provided.

The City's Health Benefits Program supplements Medicare but does not duplicate benefits available under Medicare. Medicare-eligible members must be enrolled in Medicare Parts A and B in order to be covered by a Medicare HMO plan. To enroll in Medicare and assure continuity of benefits upon becoming age 65, contact your Social Security Office during the three-month period before your 65th birthday. In order not to lose benefits, you must enroll in Medicare during this period even if you will not be receiving a Social Security check.

If you are over 65 or eligible for Medicare due to disability and did not join Medicare, contact your Social Security Office to find out when you may join. If you do not join Medicare Part B when you first become eligible, there is a 10% premium penalty for each year you were eligible but did not enroll. In addition, under certain circumstances there may be up to a 15-month delay before your Medicare Part B coverage can begin upon re-enrollment.

If you or your spouse are ineligible for Medicare Part A although over age 65 (reasons for ineligibility include non-citizenship or non-eligibility for Social Security benefits for Part A), contact us at:

NYC Health Benefits Program
40 Rector Street - 3rd Floor
New York, NY 10006

Coverage for those not eligible for Medicare Part A can be provided under certain health plans. Under this Non-Medicare eligible coverage, you continue to receive the same hospital benefits as persons not yet age 65.

If you are living outside the USA or its territories, Medicare benefits are not available. Under this Non-Medicare eligible coverage, you continue to receive the same hospital and/or medical benefits as persons not yet age 65. If you do not join and/or do not continue to pay for Medicare Part B however, you will be subject to penalties if you return to the USA and attempt to enroll.

If you are eligible for Medicare Part B as a retiree but did not file with Social Security during their enrollment period (January through March) or prior to your 65th birthday, you will receive supplemental medical coverage only, and only through GHI/EBCBS Senior Care.

Medicare Enrollment

You must notify the Health Benefits Program in writing immediately upon receipt of your or your dependent's Medicare card. Include the following information: a copy of the Medicare card and birth dates for yourself and spouse, retirement date, pension number and pension system, name of health plan, and name of union welfare fund.

If your plan does not provide coverage for Medicare enrollees, you will have the opportunity to transfer to another plan that does.

Once the Health Benefits Program is notified that you are covered by Medicare, deductions from your pension check will be adjusted, if applicable. The Health Benefits Program will then notify your health plan that you are enrolled in Medicare so that your benefits can be adjusted. If you are Medicare-eligible and are enrolling in an HMO you must complete an additional application which you must obtain directly from the HMO.

Medicare and Retiring Employees

At retirement, employees who have chosen Medicare as their primary plan or whose dependents have not been covered on their plan because their spouse/domestic partner elected Medicare as the primary plan may re-enroll in the City health benefits program. This is done by completing a Health Benefits Application and submitting it to their agency health benefits, payroll or personnel office. Also at retirement, Medicare-eligible employees for whom the City Health Benefits Program had provided primary coverage are permitted to change health plans effective on the same date as their retiree health coverage

The necessary forms for Medicare Part B reimbursement and IRMAA can be found by clicking the link below.

[City of NY-Health Benefits Program – Medicare Part B](#)

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