

**William Laziza Testimony Statement for January 9 Public Hearing
of the Civil Service and Labor Committee**

Greetings and Salutations to the Honorable members of Civil Service and Labor Committee of the New York City Council.

Thank you for allowing me to speak.

I am a retired CUNY Employee, and a member of the PSC CUNY Retirees group.

I chose to work for lower wages at CUNY because of the retirement package offering a small pension and healthcare for life.

During my tenure, I became disabled due to illness partly brought on by stress from long hours and constant worry with keeping my assignments under control, on budget and fully functioning to serve CUNY, NYC, and its citizens, day in, and day out.

My particular story is too long to detail here. Although the work was challenging and I had to put in more hours than I was being paid for, I was happy and I felt that my wife and I were protected, in the long term, by the benefits that I was earning through my years of service.

Now that I have retired, the healthcare benefit has been a life saver for me. I have limited income and I need to maintain my health more than ever.

Please reject the proposed changes to amend the City's Administrative Code section 12-126.

I urge you to VOTE NO on the proposed change when it comes up for a vote.

But then, what is to be done with the entire issue of retiree healthcare?

Here's a suggestion...

The PSC has put forward a proposal for an alternative to resolving increasing health insurance costs for city workers and retirees that takes a longer-term view, while protecting vulnerable retirees from the many dangers of Medicare Advantage plans.

Please take the time to give this plan a fair chance and your full consideration. This plan has been put together by experts who are familiar with the issues confronting the city today and how we got here.

In not too many years you too may face retirement and find yourself in the same situation we retirees are in today.

This is not the time to kick the can down the road with a decision to compromise one group or the other. This is the time to find a lasting solution that will serve all NYC

employees and retirees in the best way possible.

Please think of all of us and find a way to honor the commitment that CUNY and the New York City Government made when we were hired with the understanding that if we worked hard and did our job, we would be rewarded with the benefit package that was agreed to at the time.

We did our job for you, it's time for you to do yours for us.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

William Laziza