



Office of Labor Relations

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March 31, 2021

Mr. Stuart Eber
Council of Municipal Retiree Organizations
c/o Professional Staff Congress
61 Broadway, 15th floor
New York, New York 10006

Dear Mr. Eber:

Thank you for forwarding your letter of March 11, 2021 to Mayor de Blasio and the MLC to me.

The City and the MLC publicly entered into a Health Care Agreement June 28, 2018 which committed the City and the MLC to establish a Tripartite Health Insurance Policy Committee consisting of representatives of the City, the MLC and Martin Scheinman, Esq. to study the long term sustainability of health care benefits for the employees and retirees of the City. The Agreement specified a number of items that would be assessed by this Committee including the adoption of a Medicare Advantage Plan. As a result, you are aware that the City, in a transparent procurement process with strict oversight, released a request for proposals under a Negotiated Acquisition procurement process and is in the midst of selecting an appropriate vendor for the program.

The selected Medicare Advantage program will continue to be free to retirees. The offerings have been carefully analyzed to ascertain that the program will not harm retirees but actually provide equal or better coverage. The programs permit retirees to utilize any provider nationally that accepts Medicare, assuring that provider choices are as broad as they are under the current program. There will be no bureaucratic hurdles to selecting providers or obtaining care. The Medicare Advantage program also offers additional programs for retirees not available under the current program including transportation and food delivery for post-hospitalized patients and coverage for fitness programs.

The selection decisions are being made by a team of people representing the City and the Municipal Labor Committee. Some of the Committee members are retirees covered by the program and some are soon to be retirees who will be part of this program in the future. All of us from the City are covered by the City's health plans and appreciate how important the health coverage is to our active employees and retirees.

Your Medicare Part B reimbursement program will also continue as it has previously.

We hope this information helps allay your concerns.

Very truly yours,

Renee Campion
Commissioner