



New York State Public Employee Conference

33 South Service Road – Suite 104

Jericho, New York 11753

Telephone ~ 516.750.9707 / Facsimile ~ 516.750.9787

www.nyspec.org

Chair ~

Peter D. Meringolo

December 1, 2018

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Sanitation Officers Association

Carol Kellerman

President

Recording Secretary ~

Richard Wells

Police Conference of New York

Citizens Budget Commission

Two Penn Plaza – 5th Floor

New York, NY 10121

Corresponding Secretary ~

Christopher Erikson

Local 3 I B E W

Dear President Kellerman:

Co-Chairs ~

Greg Floyd

Teamsters Local 237

Joseph Giattino

SEIU Local 621

Thomas Mungeer

NYS Troopers PBA

Harry Nespoli

Uniformed Sanitationmen's Ass'n

Michael J. Palladino

Detectives Endowment Association

Louis Turco

Lieutenants Benevolent Association

I have your letter to Governor Cuomo of November 27, 2018, regarding several pieces of legislation that you oppose. You state, in pertinent part, that the instant pieces are "... costly and unwarranted expansions of government employee and retiree benefits that should be vetoed to preserve the fiscal restraint ...".

Notwithstanding the fact that we believe that every one of the bills referenced in your letter should be enacted into law based on its own respective merit, I write – as Chairman and on behalf of an organization currently comprising 84 unions and umbrella groups representing public employees in our great State – regarding two of those bills in particular: A9909 (Abbate) / S7705 (Golden) and S5594C (Golden / A7600C (Abbate).

Trustees ~

William Hennessey

Long Island Public Service

Employees Local 342

William P. Lacey

Civil Service Coalition Building

Trades & Municipal Unions

Dennis Quirk

NYS Court Officers Association

Yes, these two pieces of legislation do have a cost, and yes, they expand government employee benefits. The essential question here is, Ms. Kellerman, are they "costly" and "unwarranted"? In a perfect world, everything would be free, and there would be no violence. We would have no need for a Citizens Budget Commission. We would have no need for police, or courts, and those public employees who step up to protect us. However, the reality is that everything has a cost, but how do you quantify whether it is *too* "costly" to the family of a public employee who might become permanently disabled in the performance of duty? Do you think that the family members of such a public employee believe it is "unwarranted" that their wife, or husband, or mother, or father, are no longer able to provide for them because of selfless service to the public? What price do *they* pay? I wonder whether you feel the same way about the many public employees who have died, are dying, or are unable to work as a result of their valiant effort to save lives during the 9/11 attack and its aftermath. What if those individuals had hesitated to consider the ramifications to their families because of insufficient benefits? How many thousands more members of the public would have perished?

Co-Counsel ~

Philip Karasyk, Esq.

Richard E. Mulvaney, Esq.

Legislative Director ~

Louis Matarazzo

Legislative Chair ~

Bing Markee



Member Units

Amalgamated Transit Union Local 726
Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1056
Assistant Deputy Wardens/Deputy Wardens Ass'n
Association of Supreme Court Reporters
Bridge & Tunnel Officers Benevolent Association
Bridge & Tunnel Superior Officers Benevolent
Association
Captains Endowment Association
Citywide Association of Law Assistants
Civil Service Coalition
of Building Trades and Municipal Unions
Correction Captains Association
Correction Officers Benevolent Association
Court Attorneys Association of the City Of New York
Court Officers Benevolent Association of Nassau
County
C W A AFL-CIO
C W A Local 1180
C W A Local 1181
C W A Local 1182
D C 9, Civil Service Employees, L-1969
Detectives Endowment Association
Detective Investigators Association
I B E W Local 3
I U O E Local 15A-B-C-D
I U O E Local 30
I U O E Local 211
I U O E Local 891
Lieutenants Benevolent Association
Local 372, DC 37
Local 983, DC 37
Long Island Public Service Employees Local 342
MTA Commanding Officers Association
MTA PBA
Nassau County Detectives Association Inc.
Nassau County Fire Marshalls Benevolent Association
Nassau County PBA
Nassau County Police Conference
Nassau County Sheriff's COBA
Nassau County Superior Officers Association
New York District Council of Carpenters
NYC Deputy Sheriff's Association
NYS Correctional Officers & PBA
NYS Court Clerks Association
NYS Court Officers Association
NYS Nurses Association
NYS Police Investigators Association
NYS Professional Fire Fighters Association
NYS Public Employees Federation, AFL-CIO
NYS Troopers PBA
NYS Supreme Court Officers
PBAs of New York State Law Enforcement
Police Conference of New York
Port Authority Maintenance Supervisors Association
Port Authority PBA
S E I U Local 246
S E I U Local 300
S E I U Local 621
Sanitation Officers' Association
Sergeants Benevolent Association
Social Services Employees Union Local 371
Subway Surface Supervisors Association
Suffolk County Association of Municipal Employees
Suffolk County Court Employees Association
Suffolk County Deputy Sheriffs PBA
Suffolk County East Hampton Village PBA
Suffolk County South Hampton Town PBA
Suffolk County PBA
Suffolk County Police Superior Officers Association
Suffolk Detectives Association
Teamsters Local 237
TWU Local 100
Uniformed EMS Officers Union
Uniform EMTs and Paramedics Local 2507
Uniformed Fire Alarm Dispatchers Benevolent
Association
Uniformed Firefighters Association
Uniformed Fire Officers Association
Uniformed Sanitationmen's Association
United Public Service Employees Association
United Service Workers Union Local 74
Westchester County Correction Officers Association
Yonkers Fire Fighters Local 628
Yonkers Uniformed Fire Officers Association

Governor Cuomo himself recognized this distinction on July 20, 2017, during a signing ceremony for similar legislation which now protects the uniformed public employees in the City of New York. He stated, in part, "... uniformed workers serve on the front line of preserving the safety, health and well being of residents – it is crucial that we offer them the same level of support in return ... with this action, we are restoring justice and fairness to these dedicated men and women who keep New York moving forward so they can rest assured that if they get hurt in the line of duty, they and their families will be taken care of."

Human costs should always supplant dollars and cents.

Very truly yours,



Peter D. Meringolo
Chairman

