



NEW BEDFORD FIREFIGHTERS

LOCAL 841

Affiliate IAFF, PFFM, AFL-CIO, and GSMLC

Billy Sylvia
President
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Vice President
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April 19, 2023

*Copy to the
Councilors*

*RF Mh
20-50
PV*

Dear Councilor,

As you are aware, the Unions in the city have concern over the proposed dental and vision plans to city employees. This concern has only grown after unwillingness of HR and the city to provide information on the proposed insurance plan, how it came about and specifics. Further, the city has denied proposing a plan or meeting with anyone on this matter. If this is so, how would have a complete proposed plan with a two-year contract date make its way to the city council? HR has also continued to change its narrative on the matter from not offering it to retirees, to then making it available to them at the last minute when proposing. Only after the Unions made it aware it was a major concern of theirs.

Now it has come to our attention that the city has just sent dental/vision plans out to bid for pricing and plan design. This only after the Unions again raised concerns on the process and proposed plan. During this process the city has either given false information, or has plainly lied about their process. It is easy to see with the confusion and continued changing of information and fact. You can find the attached response from the city's attorney pertaining to our March 27 records request on the matter.

L841 along with all the other Unions agree that the city has had a short coming in providing dental/vision offering benefits. This is why in the early 1990's all of the Union's sought out and provided their own plans for members. For more than 30 years we have all provided this benefit and now the city is demanding to provide what we have long done, at what could be the expense of our own membership. We all are in agreement that city non-Union employees should have this benefit available to them. But not at the expense of our members and retiree's. We have had discussions with our own attorneys, insurance carriers, and brokers. There is all agreement and ideas to work together with the city and provide ways that this can be done without adversely affecting the Unions or the city. We ask that this matter be tabled until we all can get proper and truthful information. We are also asking that the city, in good faith, work with the Unions to resolve this matter to resolve this issue fairly and properly. Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns.

In Solidarity,
L841 leadership