

# UNITED BROTHERHOOD OF CARPENTERS AND JOINERS OF AMERICA

## NEW YORK CITY & VICINITY DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS

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To Whom it May Concern,

On behalf of the New York City District Council of Carpenters and our 20,000 members who live and work in New York City, we are asking for the City Council's help to issue a home rule to remedy a legislative issue costing our civil service members thousands of dollars a year. This is a home rule that has passed the city council unanimously last year, however timing issues prevented it from being taken up in Albany as the legislative session was ending.

The reason this home rule is required is due to a flaw in the City's 57/5 early retirement pension language, a segment civil service carpenters with city pensions are being forced to pay into an early retirement program that they will never be able to claim. In order for us to fix this, it is crucial that the City Council issue the necessary home rule so that the State Legislature can pass S6981B/A7971-A prior to the end of session next month.

The 57/5 retirement program—which went into effect in 1995 and is required for all Tier 4 employees—allows Tier 4 New York employees like carpenters and construction workers employed by city agencies to receive their pension starting at age 57 if they have at least 25 years of service. This Tier 4 group includes City employees who began work between July 27, 1976 and March 31, 2012, and participants in the plan are required to contribute Additional Member Contributions (AMCs) for all years of Credited Service, in addition to the Basic Member Contributions required for all Tier 4 Employees.

Unfortunately, there is a small percentage of Civil Service carpenters who work in agencies like Health + Hospitals and NYCHA that are paying for these early retirement benefits but would be unable to reach the 25 years of work requirement due to their age when the program was implemented. For example, if you started working late with the city at age 45, under the 57/5 program you'd have to work until age 70 in order to be entitled to the full compensation despite being physically taxed.

The ability to finally fix this unfair burden on your constituents is in your hands. Thank you and please let us know if you have any questions.

In Solidarity,

Joseph Geiger  
Executive Secretary-Treasurer  
New York City & Vicinity District Council of Carpenters