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Brothers and Sisters:

For those of you who participate in the C-MERS (formerly known as MERF) Pension Plan, your members who have retired on a disability pension recently received notification from the Retirement Commission that they could no longer work more than 20 hours per week. These members were told that if they were working more than 20 hours per week, they would either have to quit their jobs or give up their pensions.

On September 29, 2011, Council 15's organizer Troy Raccuia, attorney and lobbyist Eric Brown, and myself met with the state comptroller, Kevin Lembo to discuss the Council's concern with this new interpretation of the C-MERS statute. Comptroller Lembo agreed with Council 15 that our members should not be forced to choose between keeping a job or keeping their pensions.

Based on our conversations, Comptroller Lembo agreed that his office would be sending notice immediately to the affected members advising them that they are not required to choose between their pension benefit and their jobs. That notice was sent on September 30 and should have been received by affected members as of this date. In that notice, the Comptroller's office notified members that their pensions will remain status quo until we can collaborate on new legislation to resolve problems which have arisen with the interpretation of the statutory language.

If you are hearing from any retirees regarding this issue, please tell them they can remain in their current jobs and their pensions are not in jeopardy. We will remain in touch as we move forward.

Please ensure that this message gets out to your membership and retirees.

Very Truly Yours,

Jeffrey H. Matchett

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Executive Director

JHM

Protecting Those That Protect

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