Patrolmen's Benevolent Association

Of the City of New York Incorporated

125 Broad Street, 11th Floor, NY NY 10004

Patrick J. Lynch, President

July 2, 2016

To the Editor:

We write in response to your July 2nd editorial: "The PBA boss' pension game."

The Post and its editors have, historically, been strong supporters of the men and women who protect this city. Words of support are nice, but they are meaningless when they do not extend to advocating for the relatively minor cost to protect police officers and their families from the risks they take on our behalf. While we hope it's not the case, perhaps the Post has more in common with Mayor de Blasio than it realizes.

Today's editorial doesn't tell the full story behind the inadequate disability protection provided to recently hired New York City police officers: they are the only police officers in New York State who are subject to this diminished benefit. Even Governor Paterson, whose 2009 veto led to this unjust and inequitable situation, has since admitted that it was an unintended consequence that must now be corrected. The city is already expected to save $30 billion over the next 30 years as a result of cuts to police officers pensions, and the "deal" offered by the Mayor would have resulted in the city effectively turning a profit at our members' expense.

But the editorial does get one thing (almost) right: New York City police officers receive line-of-duty disability benefits at a far lower rate than some other uniformed workers, and the benefit is strictly policed (it was actually received by only 14 percent of NYPD members who left the department over the past 10 years, not including those who were injured or made ill on 9/11). The PBA remains willing to work with the City Council, the Legislature and the Governor on legislation that will provide disability protection for police officers at a reasonable cost. We will not, however, allow the Mayor to pick members' pockets in order to subsidize other City operations.

Sincerely,

Patrick J. Lynch
President