



Political Action

An Official Communication from the
Uniformed Firefighters Association

New York State Capitol Building
Thursday, March 30, 2023

IAFF Local 94 - AFL-CIO

Former FDNY EMS Promoted to Firefighter Lobby Day

Thank you for coming to help us lobby for the EMS Buyback Bill. We have put together a few statements to help you educate the people you speak with today. **There are two things you should discuss: the bill itself, and what we are trying to do today.** We are asking you to split up and speak to either a Politician or their Staffer, and we want you to leave them a flyer after you speak with them.

What are we trying to do with the bill right now/today?

The Bill is moving through both the Senate and the Assembly, but there is a small window where we can try to get the Bill put into the final State budget (this is the part that we are trying to do today.) The Senate has agreed to put the EMS Buyback Bill into their Budget requests.

The Assembly doesn't normally do this, and we don't expect them to change. **If time allows, we ask that you visit the offices of Assembly Members and ask them NOT TO OPPOSE THIS IN THE FINAL BUDGET.** The final budget will get worked out between the Senate, Assembly and Governor, and if all works out, then the bill will be passed as part of the budget in the coming weeks.

The Governor and the Mayor are also needed for support, and it is our intention that the Press Conference today, and the promise of more to come, will be enough for them to want to get this resolved and allow it into the budget NOW.

How To Sell the Ems Buyback Bill:

Basically, explain the history and the merits of the bill:

In 1996, EMS merged with the FDNY, and shortly thereafter, a pathway for EMS members to get promoted to Firefighter was created. One of the reasons this was done was to increase the number of minority and female Firefighters in the FDNY. EMS Pension Time counting fully toward the Firefighter pension was an obvious part of the deal; no one would offer a promotion and take away pension time as part of the deal, all while working IN THE SAME AGENCY!!!

In 2009, in an effort to save money after the 2008 market crash, Governor Patterson and Mayor Bloomberg conspired to change pension rules for the FDNY and NYPD. Governor Patterson didn't sign the Tier 2 Extender Bill, which had been signed every 2 years by every Governor since the late 1970s, which effectively ended Tier 2 and placed all new Firefighters and new Police Officers into Tier 3.

Although it never applied to us because of the extender signed every two years, Tier 3 had been a law on the books since the late 1970's, but because the rules for the tier were written before EMS was ever part of the FDNY, EMS time was not considered pensionable since there was no promotion from EMS to FDNY in the 1970's, and no one had foreseen the EMS/FDNY merger back then.

When Governor Patterson and Mayor Bloomberg killed Tier 2 in 2009, they also inadvertently stopped allowing EMS time to be bought back.



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We aren't asking for a new benefit, we are asking you to fix a mistake and restore something that was never meant to be lost in the first place.

The promotion from EMS to FF is the only promotion in NYC, NYS and possibly the world, where a promoted member loses ANY AND ALL of their pension time when they get promoted.

The promotion from EMS to FF was also used to increase diversity in the ranks of FF. Hundreds of minority EMS members took the promotion to FF and helped move the minority representation in the FDNY from 9% (20 years ago) to 30% (today.) Additionally, the majority of women came from the EMS Promotional Exam. These members (we) now must work additional years in a dangerous job because Patterson and Bloomberg dropped the ball in 2009. **We need this fixed NOW.**

There are other jobs where time counts for Firefighter:

- NYPD time counts. *Every* State Police Agency can transfer all their time to the FDNY.
- All NYS Professional FF time can be transferred and counted. The FF down the street in Albany gets more of a benefit than a promoted member from FDNY EMS.
- All forms of Military time count. Thank you for your service! It's a deserved benefit, so is OUR TIME!!!
 - A Medic in the US Army... YES
 - An FDNY EMT... NO
 - A Submariner in the US Navy... YES
 - FDNY EMS Doing CPR on 5 COVID patients in a tour... NO
 - A US Marine on the front lines Hoo Rah... YES
 - FDNY EMS delivering a baby in the back of an ambulance... NO
 - Air Force Pilot, Maintenance, Cook, anyone... YES
 - FDNY EMS administering Narcan to a junkie, getting stuck with their dirty needle... NO
 - US Coast Guard, the Coastee on the boat protecting NY Harbor... YES
 - FDNY EMS crawling under the subway to stop the bleeding on a victim torn apart by a train... NO
- Donald Trump's SPACE FORCE - some guy looking through a telescope for UFOs and Alien Lifeforms – YES, EVEN THAT TIME THAT COUNTS IF THEY BECOME AN FDNY FIREFIGHTER!!!
 - But, FDNY EMS responding to Terrorist Attacks in the #1 Terrorism Target in America... NO
- FDNY EMS attending to car wrecks, stabbings, heart attacks, children hit by cars, choking victims, burn victims, and comforting and aiding rape victims - NOPE NOPE NOPE NOPE NOPE and NOPE! Sorry, NYC and NY State don't allow that!!!

This isn't a GIVEAWAY!

Promoted EMS members must make up (*PAY FOR*) the Pension Deficit they create in the FDNY Pension when their time is moved from the NYCERS system to the Fire Pension Fund.

You love to honor us with your words, and after a pandemic, even a bonus, but now it's time to RE-honor the lifesaving work dangerous work that NYC EMS members perform by counting our years spent doing our job toward our pensions.

It's about fairness, it's about equity, it's about RESPECT... and it's about TIME!!! HONOR OUR TIME!!!