

SUFFOLK COUNTY MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES BENEFIT FUND

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COUNTY OBSERVER
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LABOR RELATIONS ANALYST

UNION OBSERVERS
THOMAS BIVONA
PRESIDENT, DSPBA

March 2, 2026

Dear Member,

We want to take a moment to acknowledge the frustration many of you have expressed regarding the new dental plan. Please know that we hear you, we understand your concerns, and your feedback is genuinely important to us.

As we communicated previously, 2026 is a year focused on stabilizing the Benefit Fund and returning it to long-term financial health. This stability is essential to ensure that we can continue offering core benefits to all our members, both active and retired, for many years to come. We recognize that changes to coverage or provider availability can be upsetting, and we do not take your concerns lightly.

We are actively working to improve the current dental plan and expand the provider network as the Fund becomes more stable and solvent. In addition, as promised, we will be issuing a Request for Proposal (RFP) in 2026 to ensure that we are securing the best possible plan at the best possible cost, while protecting and maintaining all core benefits long term. We are optimistic that the plan and provider network will improve next year as these efforts continue.

Our goal has always been, and remains, to safeguard the Benefit Fund so that it can continue supporting every member and their family well into the future. We want you to know that your voices have been heard, your concerns are being addressed, and your feedback is helping guide our next steps.

Thank you for your patience and continued support as we work toward building a stronger and more sustainable Benefit Fund for all.

Sincerely,

Chairperson