

THOMAS P. DiNAPOLI  
STATE COMPTROLLER



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ALBANY, NEW YORK 12236

STATE OF NEW YORK  
OFFICE OF THE STATE COMPTROLLER

January 12, 2010

Honorable Edolphus Towns  
Chair, Committee on Oversight & Government Reform  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2157 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Towns:

As you may be aware, the U.S. Postal Service recently misplaced tens of thousands of New York State and Local Retirement System pension checks which had been mailed timely to retirees on December 30, 2009. As the administrator of the Retirement System, I am deeply concerned by an error of such consequence. Our retirees should not have to suffer, wondering if they will have enough money to buy food, pay their bills and heat their homes.

I am requesting that you, as Chair of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, initiate an investigation to determine the factors which allowed the U.S. Postal Service to misplace the pension checks, as well as to determine what corrective action the U.S. Postal Service should take to ensure this never happens again.

While the U.S. Postal Service has assured my office that it is investigating how this unacceptable error occurred and is implementing a series of steps to prevent any future mistakes, I feel a review from an independent source is warranted.

This situation is very upsetting. My office is reassigning staff and working overtime to ensure that each retiree receives a pension check as promptly as possible. We have been flooded with calls from retirees, some of whom are down to their last twenty dollars and unable to pay their bills. For many, these monthly pension checks are their major source of income. The U.S. Postal Service's failure has caused thousands of retirees great anxiety, and may further lead to bank charges and substantial penalties on unpaid bills. While we believe the swift response of our staff is mitigating the worst effects of the situation, I need to be able to reassure all our pensioners that the underlying problem has been resolved.

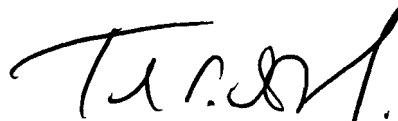
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I understand that the members of New York's Congressional delegation are as distressed about the plight of our constituents as I am. The exercise of your Committee's oversight regarding this serious matter would also benefit the millions of Americans who similarly count on receiving their pension checks in the mail each month. I appreciate your assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. DiNapoli', written in a cursive style.

Thomas P. DiNapoli  
State Comptroller

cc: NYS Congressional Delegation members