

IRONDEQUOIT POST

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Motion filed in retirees' case vs. town

IRONDEQUOIT - Attorney J. Nelson Thomas, representing a group of town of Irondequoit retirees upset over changes in their health insurance benefits, filed a motion on their behalf in U.S. District Court last Thursday, Jan. 31.

The motion for summary judgment in the case basically asked the judge to rule in favor of his clients' claims, Thomas said. Thomas, of the Dolin, Thomas and Solomon firm in Corporate Woods, claims age discrimination and breach of contract in the legal documents.

The dispute between retirees and the town stems from an Irondequoit Town Board action March 20 that effectively changed about 25 retirees' health insurance coverage from the Blue Million Plan they long have had to the Blue Choice Select Plan.

The change in insurance plans wasn't made to hurt retirees, but to try to curb skyrocketing costs of health care, the town's human resources director, Sharon Burke, said last spring.

Yet, the new plan has posed a financial hardship on retirees, according to one of the plaintiffs, Amelia Fontana.

"The town is firm in its resolve that matters of pending litigation should not be fought in the media," said attorney Lisa T. Sofferin, who is representing the town on the case, in a mid-November letter.