



**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF AMSTERDAM, NEW YORK**

**MICHAEL VILLA
MAYOR**

**LETTER OF SUPPORT
FROM THE CITY OF AMSTERDAM**

October 1, 2019

Dear Robert Bradley and Mary Hartshorne,
Co-Chairman of St. Clare's Pension Recovery Alliance

The City of Amsterdam is in strong support of the St. Clare's Pension Recovery Alliance. Employees who worked so hard for many years were expecting to receive their full pensions so that their retirement would not put them in positions where they cannot pay their bills or mortgages.

The State of New York should make this a priority and search all sources that may be able to assist in funding their pensions in full.

I am aware that St. Clare's took advantage of a religious exemption in federal law that allowed it to not pay insurance on its pension fund, saving the hospital money but ultimately leaving its future retirees with no prospect of a bailout from the Federal Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp. in the case of insolvency.

Ellis Hospital absorbed St. Clare's with an agreement that Ellis would be absolved from all of St. Clare's pension liabilities. This gave the St. Clare's employees no protection of their pensions.

I am definitely in support of the St. Clare's employees receiving their full pensions. The State of New York needs to fight and somehow accomplish a solution to returning the funds needed so that all previous employees get what they are entitled too. It's the right thing to do.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Villa
Mayor

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