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SEPTEMBER 7, 2024

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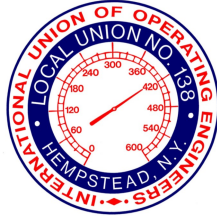
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Suffolk County Police Conference

Earlier last week, I am proud to report the approval of what we believe to be the first approval of the new $\frac{3}{4}$ Heart Bill application filed by our office on behalf of a Port Authority Police Officer.

The application was filed on July 25, 2023, and approved just under a year later, on July 8, 2024, by the NYSP&F Retirement System.(See attached approval.)

Below is a general outline for this successful filing. Of course, every application will have variations and past results do not guarantee future success, even if the applications are identical. We can, however, all use this one as a guideline to follow.

The police officer, with 15 years of service at the time of filing, had lost three months of work from November 2022 to February 2023, due to heart failure. He had been burning his own sick time since the department did not recognize the heart disease as line of duty injury. (That is very typical of all departments).

He had returned to work limited/restricted/light duty February 2023 and was still on restricted duty when we met for consultation in June 2023.

I explained it would be advantageous to file the application before being on light duty for two or more years or making more than 100 hours of overtime per year, but that once the application was filed, he could remain on restricted duty without jeopardizing either his work status nor the application.

The application was filed July 2023 and as stated above, approved July 2024, while he was still on limited duty.

The medicals were vast but in summary, he suffered from matters related to congestive heart failure including, ventricular systolic dysfunction, cardiogenic shock, mitral valve insufficiency, requiring a cardiac catheter procedure and inotropic medications. He was a nonsmoker, and denied drug or alcohol use.

These cases are complicated, usually have many moving parts and the majority are unfortunately unsuccessful. With one gold medal around our neck, we're hoping to change that success rate for all!

If you have any questions, of course, always reach out to me.

Thank you,
Jordan A. Ziegler
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