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June 5, 2009

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Unions' Health Deal Buys 3-Month Delay on Layoffs

Includes New Co-Pays

By RICHARD STEIER

The Municipal Labor Committee and the Bloomberg administration have reached a deal that will provide the city with \$200 million in healthcare savings while also postponing the layoff of permanent civil servants for at least three months.

Full details of the agreement, which is due to be announced June 2, as this newspaper hits the stands, were not available. Sources outlined some of the key changes, however, saying that the savings would result primarily from new employee co-pays for certain procedures, as well as for senior care and emergency room visits.

In addition to deferring any of the 3,700-plus layoffs proposed by Mayor Bloomberg that would have affected permanent employees (provisional workers are not protected), the city has agreed to make a \$200 one-time cash payment into employees' welfare funds.

Further information will be provided in next week's issue.



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