



Updated: Thu., Apr. 2, 2009, 12:38 PM

DEPUTY MAYOR: NYC GOING THE WAY OF GM

By DAVID SEIFMAN, CITY HALL BUREAU CHIEF

Last Updated: 12:38 PM, April 2, 2009

Posted: 12:38 PM, April 2, 2009

One of Mayor's Bloomberg's top aides warned today that the city could go the way of General Motors and collapse if its runaway pension costs aren't reigned in.

"Defined benefit plans such as what the city has were designed in an earlier generation and are not only obsolete but unaffordable," Deputy Mayor Ed Skyler declared in a speech before the Citizens Budget Commission.

"The private companies that have them, such as GM, are facing bankruptcy and bailouts. The city will be in the same position if we don't get these costs under control."

Bloomberg is pushing a bill in Albany intended to save taxpayers \$7 billion over the next 20 years by requiring newly-hired employees to put in at least 25 years before retiring at a minimum age of 50.

Uniformed employees, such as cops, can now cash out at any age after serving 20 years.

"Retiring at age 42 is really not a construct that is affordable or realistic," said Skyler.

He said the city is already paying more in health and pension benefits at the Fire Department than in salaries.

"We expect the Police department to reach the same tipping point in 2013."

NEW YORK POST is a registered trademark of NYP Holdings, Inc.
NYPOST.COM, NYPOSTONLINE.COM, and NEWYORKPOST.COM are trademarks of NYP Holdings, Inc.
Copyright 2009 NYP Holdings, Inc. All rights reserved. [Privacy](#) | [Terms of Use](#)
