

## **My Two Cent's Worth**

By: Joseph Andalina

### **More on unsustainable pensions**

Recently there have been op-ed pieces on the City of Harvey and their financial woes. One writer said that the “unfolding crisis in Harvey should send shivers down the spines of public employees and retirees across Illinois.” Wow — shiver me timbers.

He goes on to write that taxpayers already pay the highest combined state and local taxes in the country and have to pay due to — ready — “unsustainable public benefits and a state government who refused to do anything about them.”

The piece goes on to tell us the fiscal worries of Harvey and how they are on the brink of financial collapse. That is due to the fact that money has been garnished from Harvey’s revenue to pay for pensions. And it is bad with the resulting layoffs of 40 cops and firefighters.

One think tank watchdog group believes four things should be done to help us all in the future.

1. End defined benefit pensions for new employees and give them 401(k) plans like the private sector.  
*Dude. This isn't the private sector.*
2. Amend the Illinois constitution to remove the no-diminishment clause  
*Dude. Tried and failed. Stop whining.*
3. Give collective bargaining power back to local governments.  
*\*Maniacal laughter\* Dude.*
4. Let cities file for bankruptcy.  
*Dude. Can't do that here in Illinois. It's just a trick to kill collective bargaining and renege on commitments.*

As we know folks, any time a think tank or watchdog group gives an opinion, you know it will be bad for public workers.

In reading all this crap, I prefer the words of a retired civil servant in author Fyodor Dostoyevsky’s book *Notes from the Underground* as an answer to this op-ed piece above. “I am a sick man. I am a spiteful man. I am an unpleasant man. I think my liver is diseased.”

And that’s from reading all about my unsustainable pensions. Sick of it for sure.

Vita é bella.