My Two Cent's Worth

By: Joseph Andalina

More on pensions

You would think this would all go away, right? Pensions, pensions, pensions. From ex-governor Pat Quinn and his statement that he was born to fix Illinois' pension crisis, to Rauner the Bruce's "turnaround agenda: to completely dismantle retirement benefits for current and us old, broken coppers already in the Magic Forest.

It should be over, right? Nah, not even close. But various court cases in the Illinois State Supreme Court have reduced some of our angst. Evil governors and their cabal in the press and various "policy institutes" had to suffer the defeat of their egregious efforts to dismantle our benefits.

Further, recent court cases have come out favorably with some rulings. In a new chapter of legal wrangling, an 86-page decision from the First District Appellate Court decided that the city of Harvey, that is totally destroying public service pensions, **must** pay $15,000,000 in damages to the local pension fund and initiate a property tax levy for the almost bankrupt pension fund.

Further, two new laws are now on the books here in the most crooked state in the union. They are designed to root out abuse of our local police pension system.

One bill is to prevent "double dipping" of police officers who return to active duty after retiring from collecting two pensions.

I don't know any cops who work the road who actually got this perk, but I know a few high-ranking officials who do. But it's legal, they cry! Well, not any more. Those who are benefiting from this will get to keep the path of two pensions, but then that's to be no more.

The other bill Rauner signed is a bill that keeps survivors from getting spouse's pension benefits if they've been convicted of a felony related to the spouse's service. I believe this is what will be referred to as the Lt. Joe Gliniewicz bill.

State representatives have stated that these new laws are steps to reforming abuses of Illinois pensions.

Can't say I can argue with that.

Vita é bella.