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# LOCAL & STATE

DEMOCRAT AND CHRONICLE

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## Irondequoit loses a battle

A federal judge Thursday refused to dismiss portions of a lawsuit filed against Irondequoit by retirees whose health insurance benefits were reduced in 2001.

U.S. District Judge David Larimer ruled that the retirees did not need to file a notice of claim against Irondequoit before suing, as the town had argued.

Larimer said town attorneys did not raise the issue until late last year, though the lawsuit was filed in July 2001. The town apparently wanted to try to derail much of the lawsuit by raising the procedural issue at a time that could prohibit the retirees' lawyers from filing the proper paperwork, Larimer ruled.

Noting that the court "has spent considerable judicial resources" on the case, Larimer said, "I think, frankly, this piecemeal approach to litigation is not favored."