



## **COUNCIL 4 UNION NEWS RELEASE**

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### ***Council 4 Union Files Labor Complaint Against New Haven; Condemns DeStefano's Efforts to Privatize School Custodial Operations***

*New Britain, CT, December 18, 2009* – Council 4 AFSCME, a union with more than 1,500 members who reside in New Haven, criticized the DeStefano administration for seeking to contract out school custodial and maintenance operations.

The City recently put out a request for proposal (RFP Number: 29-12-674) to outside contractors to manage custodial cleaning and other services currently performed by Board of Education employees represented by AFSCME Local 287. This would create another layer of management underneath AFB, the firm that was hired in 2008 to manage school facilities after school employees and the community led the push for the ouster of Aramark Corporation.

“Privatization quite simply equals corruption. So we find it astounding that the Mayor and the school administration would invite the possibility of corrupt outside contracting practices that will hurt students and cost taxpayers dearly,” said Kevin Murphy, Council 4’s Director of Collective Bargaining and Organizing.

“New Haven students don’t need another Aramark debacle. Neither do the taxpayers who subsidize these faulty schemes,” added Local 287 President Robert Montuori, a custodian at Barnard School.

Last month, the New Haven Register reported that outside contractors, including AFB’s principal officer, donated nearly \$50,000 to the Elm & Oak PAC, which was DeStefano’s political action committee during his reelection campaign last year.

Council 4 also announced it filed a municipal prohibited practice complaint (MPP) against the City of New Haven and the Board of Education for attempting to intimidate and harass Local 287 leadership.

In the complaint, Council 4 specifically alleges that New Haven School Chief Operating Officer William Clark informed Local 287’s president and vice president that the Board of Education would contract out the work of Local 287 members if the union continued to file board complaints and grievances.

“These threats are part of an orchestrated effort to intimidate local union leaders and prevent them from exercising the rights guaranteed them under state law,ion Act,” Murphy said. “We would hope the administration could find a way to sit down with us and treat us like adults so we can all do what’s best for the kids.”

Council 4 filed the complaint Dec. 14 with the Connecticut State Board of Labor Relations. A copy of the board charge is attached to this press release.

*Council 4 of the American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees (AFSCME) represents 35,000 employees and is the state’s largest AFL-CIO union. To learn more, go to [www.council4.org](http://www.council4.org).*

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