



## **COUNCIL 4 UNION NEWS RELEASE**

**Contact:** Larry Dorman (860) 612-3855

### ***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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STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
LABOR DEPARTMENT  
CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF LABOR RELATIONS

IN THE MATTER OF

City of New Haven  
Board of Education

(RESPONDENT)

-AND-

Local 287 of Council 4  
AFSCME, AFL-CIO

(CLAIMANT)

RESPONDENT'S ADDRESS: 54 Meadow Street, New Haven, CT 06515  
RESPONDENT'S PHONE: (203) 946-8808

PURSUANT TO SECTION 7-471(5) OF THE MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE RELATIONS ACT THE UNDERSIGNED ALLEGES THAT THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT HAS ENGAGED IN AND IS ENGAGING IN PROHIBITED PRACTICES WITHIN THE MEANING OF SECTION 7-470 OF SAID ACT, IN THAT:

Respondent has interfered with, restrained and coerced employees in the exercise of the rights guaranteed in Section 7-468; dominated or interfered with the formation, existence or administration of Complainant Union; and discharged or otherwise discriminated against an employee or employees because the employee or employees have signed or filed any affidavit, petition or complaint or given any information or testimony under Sections 5-270 to 5-280, inclusive. Said action constitutes a violation of but not limited to Sections 7-470 (1), (a) (2), and (a) (3) of the Act.

Specifically, on Monday, December 7, 2009, the parties were in attendance for an informal Labor Board Hearing. The hearing was held for MPPs 28035 and 28047. At the conclusion of the hearing, Will Clark, Chief Financial Officer, who was in attendance at the hearing, informed the president and vice-president of the Local that if they continued to file complaints and grievances, the Board would contract out the work performed by Local 287.

Complainant seeks comprehensive statutory remedy including but not limited to an order to cause Respondent to cease and desist with the violation of the law and pay to Complainant all costs borne by Complainant in pursuance of this Complaint and compliance therewith.

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME THIS

14th DAY OF December 2009

Chester Spada

NOTARY PUBLIC

MY COMMISSION EXPIRES: 9.30.12

Local 287, Council 4, AFSCME AFL-CIO

COMPLAINANT

Kevin M. Murphy, Director of Collective Bargaining  
And Organizing

Council 4 AFSCME, AFL-CIO

Kevin M. Murphy

SIGNATURE

444 East Main Street  
New Britain CT 06051  
(860) 224-4000

CERTIFICATION OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT, PURSUANT TO SECTION 7-471-20 OF THE CONNECTICUT GENERAL REGULATIONS, A COPY OF THE FOREGOING WAS MAILED TO THE RESPONDENT BY REGISTERED OR CERTIFIED MAIL.

Chester Spada