



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

City of Middletown

CONNECTICUT 06457

SEBASTIAN N. GIULIANO
MAYOR

**Office of the Mayor
City of Middletown, Middletown Connecticut**

PRESS RELEASE

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The Mayor and his Administrative Assistant, William Pillarella, met last week with Chairman of the Board of Education, Ted Raczka. The pressing issue between the City and the Board: the escalating conflict between The Board's administration and the Local 466 workforce made up of custodians, secretaries and cafeteria employees.

"At this time, all of the labor problems the City faces concern members of local 466, AFSCME who are employed at the Board of Education. They result directly from the dealings between the Board administrators and the local 466 members", the Mayor stated. "We do not have the same situation with 466 employees that work on the City General Government side."

The Charter designates the Mayor as the hiring authority for these jobs and the Board of Education the funding source. There are only three municipalities in the State of Connecticut with this type of setup.

"We may agree wholeheartedly that a disciplinary action is warranted", the Mayor added, "but these employees are still entitled to procedural due process. It is virtually impossible to defend a Board

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action if the grievance procedure established in the Union contract is not followed. It invariably results in protracted administrative proceedings and, in some cases, litigation. I cannot stand by and allow the taxpayers to be burdened with additional legal costs because the Board is unwilling to abide by negotiated contracts.”

The Mayor has begun budget deliberations with the Finance Department and may be proposing changes in his upcoming 2010-11 City budget calculated to address this problem. The Mayor’s budget is due to the Council on April 1, 2010. In the meantime, the Mayor and Chairman Raczka have scheduled monthly meetings in an effort to resolve these types of issues. “To the extent that conflicts may be the result of misunderstandings or semantic differences, these meetings could go a long way towards nipping them in the bud”, noted the Mayor.