

Matt Rector
President

September 17, 2010

Tim Fedenko
Vice-President

Sanjay Sharma
Secretary

James Lujan
Treasurer



AFT Local 1581
AFL-CIO

Honorable Adolpho B. Palacios, Sr.
Committee on Public Safety, Law Enforcement,
and Senior Citizens
Committee on Labor, the Public Structure,
Public Libraries and Technology
30th Guam Legislature
Suite 104
155 Hesler St.
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

3:35 pm.
SEPT. 17, 2010
RECEIVED

Dear Senator Palacios:

Buenas yan Hafa Adai! I am writing to you on behalf of the hundreds of public employees that have been denied their legal rights by various public agencies and the Department of Administration whose job it is to enforce those rights. I hereby request that you call an oversight hearing on the Department of Administration with regards to the Public employee Management Relations Act and their lack of action in upholding and administering the law. Here are some specific cases that we would like explained publicly:

RECOGNITION FOR ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS AT GMH AND DMH

While we all know how important Doctors and Nurses are to the health and well being of our families we must also recognize the importance of the hard work done by the other healthcare professionals at our institutions of healthcare, GMH and DMH. These professionals deserve a voice at work and the protection of a union contract as much as any worker which is why the majority of workers in both of these units have joined the GFT. Unfortunately, even though we applied for recognition pursuant to 4GCA Chapter 10 and 2GARR we have yet to receive it. We have followed up with multiple phone calls and letters all to no avail. As both of these line agencies and DOA are under your purview I would request that you order your directors to obey the law and grant these employees recognition immediately.

NURSES AT GMHA

We are currently negotiating a new contract for our nurses at GMHA and while negotiations are going smoothly there are a couple of matters that need to be settled so that we can complete the process. First, the Civil Service Commission has refused to hear grievances in regards to collective bargaining agreements even though they were negotiated in to the grievance process as the final arbiter of disputes. GMH would like to use them in the grievance process for the nurses at GMH to which we would have no objection if it was legal. Second, due to changes in the law giving the Board of trustee authority over setting wages for employees of GMH we believe that this means that wages are now negotiable. Therefore, we humbly request that you ask the AG for clarification on these issues.

DPW BUS DRIVERS

These hard working men and women are responsible for the safety and care of Guam's most precious asset, our children which is why it is so important that they have safe buses and working conditions. These provisions are what were negotiated into their collective bargaining agreement which was completed in record time, until the former director refused to sign it. We have requested that the current director reopen negotiations so that we can complete the process, which he expressed he was willing to do until you requested the AG's open on the legality of our ability to negotiate. Now that this issue has been resolved to your satisfaction we request that your appointed acting director meet with us to complete the process immediately. The safety of our children is too important to risk due to further delays.

PORT AUTHORITY OF GUAM

As I'm sure you are aware we have been in negotiations with Management at the Port Authority of Guam for quite some time to little avail. They have refused to negotiate in good faith and are constantly breaking the law. Unfortunately, the Department of Administration refuses to enforce the law and act on the numerous unfair labor practices committed by the Ports negotiating and management team. We have requested to have an assistant AG sit in on negotiations so as to give an official interpretation of what is or is not negotiable but they have refused. This has led us to having to take the drastic action of asking the President to withhold federal funds from an Agency that is union busting and we shall do so again with the \$50M approved by congress if the Port continues to ignore the law and the rights of the hard working men and women that ensure that the families and businesses of Guam receive the goods and food we need to live a decent life. Therefore I ask that you request that an assistant AG sit in on Negotiations and order the Management to negotiate in good faith.

GUAM FIRE DEPARTMENT

We began negotiating a collective Bargaining Agreement for our brothers and sisters in our fire department back in ... Negotiations proceeded smoothly, resulting in a decent agreement which was submitted to the Chief which he rejected and sent his team back to the table. A second contract was agreed upon which was also rejected by the Chief. He then sent a contract which he drafted which we rejected but he has refused to come back to the table to negotiate. We request that you order him to resume negotiating in good faith so that we can reach an agreement which not only protects the interests of fire fighters but the safety of all of Guam's Families.

Thank you so much for your consideration and support for Guam's public servants.

Together We Win,

Matt Rector
President

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