



# Unit 9200

The Civil Service Employees Association, Inc.  
Local 1000, American federation of state, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO

**Westchester County Unit 9200**

**Jack McPhillips, *President***

July 28, 2003

## **Answer to Journal News article from July 27, 2003 “Playland Cancels Anniversary Event”;**

I would like to respond to the statement made by Ms. Susan Tolchin (Chief Advisor to the County Executive) that the tickets to the \$300 per plate fundraiser dinner were “snatched up by contractors, consultants and top county employees”.

Of course the contractors, consultants and top county employees would invest at least \$300 in a fundraising event given by the County Executive. They all have something to gain from the county in the way of contracts or appointments.

If the county employees could get a contract close to what some of these contractors or consultants get, we could afford and might even make efforts to attend these fundraisers. History has shown that no matter how much we support the County Executive (twice) and the Legislators (at least three times), we will get nothing in return.

If we received a contract and a raise 20 months ago when our contract expired and before our property taxes went up 15%, we might have been able to attend the fundraisers, and again, may have even made efforts to attend. Unfortunately we are still working under our 2001 salary, and paying 2003 taxes and prices.

Unit 9200 is not in agreement with Ms. Tolchin that the attendance at these and other events is to show their adoration for the County Executive; rather, it is because it could be financially beneficial down the road. Unfortunately the only thing our rank and file has to offer the County Executive in return for the \$300 a plate dinner is hard work (doing more with less, for less) and dedication, which obviously means nothing to him.

We are in no way accusing all the contractor, consultants and top county employees of doing anything illegal, but the question has to be raised why they “snatched up” the \$300 a person ticket. Is that why we don’t have a raise, because we didn’t attend this “gala”?

To quote one of the Unit 9200 members, “we will see in November, 2005 how much Mr. Spano is loved”.

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