

County Employees Deserve Fairness

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I am an employee of Westchester County and have been employed by the county for almost 22 years. Presently, I am employed in the Office of Medical Services.

Because our workloads are so high and some of the cases are complicated, caseworkers, eligibility examiners and others often arrive at work early and leave after hours in an effort to address the needs of the Westchester County residents we serve. Of course, the extra hours are without pay and I know of no employees who have requested overtime pay in these instances.

In June 2006, I was diagnosed with a life-threatening illness. During treatments, I still came to work. But I am not alone; there are many other Westchester County employees who have continued working, even when they could have been out on Social Security disability.

I am not ashamed to say that I voted for County Executive Andrew Spano. I had faith in him and respect for him - and I still do. It does appear to me, however, that his respect for me and my fellow CSEA Unit 9200 members is lacking. We have been without a contract since December 2005. Perhaps he takes us for granted because of the Taylor Law? Perhaps he doesn't believe that we are worthy of a contract?

We are not asking to be allowed to vote ourselves raises like the county legislators. We simply want to negotiate a fair and equitable contract. Can Mr. Spano please make himself available to meet with the CSEA Unit 9200 negotiating team?

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