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September 15, 2010

Via Regular Mail and Facsimile (908)558-2566Mr. Joseph Salemme
Director of Administrative Services
County of Union
1 Elizabethtown Plaza
Elizabeth, New Jersey 07202**RE: Union County Music Fest**

Dear Mr. Salemme:

As you may be aware, this office represents Union Council 8. We have just been informed by our client that a number of employees and Council 8 members were assigned with the task of setting up in anticipation of the "Union County Music Fest" held this past weekend. We have been further informed that several areas where employees were assigned to have been infested with the west Nile virus and/or treated with insecticides in response to such infestation. We are appalled, to say the least, by the County's failure to disclose this fact to employees prior to assigning them to this task. This failure to disclose could have put employees at risk for exposure to the west Nile virus, and or possible hazardous insecticides.

Article 10 of the collective bargaining agreement between the parties permits Council 8 to grieve disputes over conditions of employment. It is the union's position that the employer must not only provide, but maintain a safe work environment for employees. Further, it is the union's position that the employer must not put employees at risk by failing to disclose hazardous or potentially hazardous conditions. A safe work environment is a condition of employment. Failure to maintain or provide a safe work environment is a violation of the terms and conditions of employment set forth by the collective bargaining agreement, past practices, and/or rules and regulations of the County.

