

County claims not to know names of employee's who have home internet service privileges

In May of 2006 the Union County Watchdog Association placed an Open Public Records Act request seeking bills, receipts and vouchers pertaining to county employees receiving county funded home internet service and laptop computers for 2005 and 2006 to date. The county presented the UCWA with documents that were devoid of any county employee names.

A complaint was then filed with the States Government Records Council (No. 2006-124) and the GRC sent the complaint to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing as to weather or not these employee names were improperly redacted from the documents that were provided.

A conference call was held on June 12, 2007 between Tina Renna, Assistant County Counsel Anthony Orlando, County Clerk Nicole DiRado and Administrative Law Judge Barry E. Moscovitz. During this call Mr. Orlando stated more than once that:

- 1.** The names were not redacted from the bills because the names were not recorded on the bills.
- 2.** The county has no documentation that would show the names of the employees who are having their home internet service provided by the taxpayer or laptop computers for 2005 and 2006.
- 3.** Each department head would have to ask their employee's weather or not they are having their internet service provided by the county and this would be too laborious a task to carry out. (According to the OPRA a government body is not required to create a document.)

The UCWA has now exhausted all resources available to them to investigate this spending practice and has asked the Department of Local Government Services to review the matter.