

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Friday 3 April 2009

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## **East Haven Seeks Agreement with Town Unions**

*East Haven, CT* – At the request of Mayor April Capone Almon, Paul J. Hongo, Jr., Deputy Director of Town Affairs for the Town of East Haven has met with representatives from each of the Town's six (6) unions and shared with them the municipality's current financial status, which includes a \$2.4 million dollar deficit.

In an effort to help close the gap, the Town is seeking an agreement that would require all its unionized employees to take four (4) furlough days before June 30, 2009. Mayor April Capone Almon had previously mandated the same from herself and the Town's non-union personnel. In the case of Police, Fire and 911 Dispatch, the Town is seeking contractual concessions equivalent to the dollar amount of four (4) furlough days. If the six (6) unions agree, the net savings to the Town will be \$164,237.

“Keep in mind, the agreement I have proposed does not include the unions on the Board of Education side”, said Paul Hongo, Deputy Director of Town Affairs. “It goes without saying, the Town would benefit immensely if Tony (Superintendent Anthony Serio, Jr.) could secure the same from his unionized workforce.”

The second part of the proposed agreement would require the Town's unions to forgo its scheduled general wage increase in July, take four (4) additional furlough days and forgo a personal holiday that was granted in 2008 as a result of a declaration by President Bush. Doing so would save the Town \$396,449 in the 2009-2010 Fiscal Year Budget.

“The Mayor and her administration are already doing these things; we're simply asking the union employees to do the same”, said Hongo. “The Mayor is leading by example and the only way we're going to weather this storm is if we collectively roll up our sleeves and work together as one. If you think about it that is why it's so important to have the support of the Board of Education. They have three times the number of employees and that number makes a huge difference when you're trying to close a \$2.4 million dollar deficit.”

The six (6) unions are in the midst of scheduling meetings with their respective members to discuss the Town's proposed agreement. It's anticipated the unions will provide the Town a response sometime next week.

“The meetings with the unions have been productive, I truly believe the union leadership understands the magnitude of the problem”, said Hongo. “They see, hear and read what's going on around the State. Everyone is in the same boat; no one is exempt from this current economic downturn.”