

Communications

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NEW JERSEY, LOCAL 1081



Workers of America

(AFFILIATED WITH AFL-CIO)

60 PARK PLACE, SUITE 504
NEWARK, NEW JERSEY 07102
(973) 623-1081
FAX (732) 988-1081
E-MAIL CWA1081@AOL.COM

DAVID HEASLEY WEINER, *President*
GREG PAYTON, *Executive Vice President*
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August 20, 2009

Joyce Wilson Harley, Esq., Administrator
County of Essex
Hall of Records
465 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd, Rm. 510
Newark, NJ, 07102

**Re: Award of Contract to Samuel Klein and Company
Statement of Certain Political Contributions**

Dear Ms. Wilson Harley:

CWA Local 1081 respectfully submits this request the administration of the County of Essex review the propriety of Resolution #7 of the agenda of the August 19, 2009 Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders awarding a contract to Samuel Klein and Company in the amount of \$468,800.00 to perform four audits..

The resolution's *Statement of Certain Political Contributions Made after July 11, 1986* requires the following of Samuel Klein and Company:

Ordinance Number 0-86-0007, as amended by Ordinance Number 0-95-0003, adopted by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Essex, requires that all proposals for contracts submitted by individuals and/or business entities seeking to provide goods or to perform services for the County of Essex shall contain a statement setting forth each political contribution by them of \$500.00 or more made within five years next preceding the date of said contract, either directly or indirectly, to any County elected political official, County political party and/or County officials, political organization, or any State political party.

Set forth name of County elected official, County political party and/or County Official, political organization, or State political party to whom a political contribution of \$500.00

or more was made by proposer within five (5) years of the dated hereof. If none, write "NONE".

The response provided by Samuel Klein and Company, contained within a *C.271 Political Contribution Disclosure Form* prepared by the company's partner Joseph J. Faccone, states "The firm of Samuel Klein and Company, CPA's and/or its partners have not made any reportable contributions during the last twelve months".

Respectfully, unless Samuel Klein and Company made no political contributions within the four years preceding the last twelve months cited within the company's *C.271 Political Contribution Disclosure Form* the company appears not in compliance with the requirements of the County of Essex's *Statement of Certain Political Contributions Made after July 11, 1986*

Our Union thanks you, in advance, for your anticipated expeditious cooperation with this sincere supplication.

Yours truly,

David H. Weiner, President
CWA Local 1081

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 24, 2003

Contact: Teresa Ruiz
973-621-4404
Anthony Puglisi
973-621-2542

**COUNTY EXECUTIVE DIVINCENZO ANNOUNCES
'DUE DILIGENCE' INVESTIGATIONS WILL SAFEGUARD INTEGRITY
OF ESSEX COUNTY CONTRACT PROCESS**

Inspector General, Purchasing Agent take the lead to ensure compliance

Newark, NJ – Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr. has announced that all vendors and contractors who want to do business with Essex County will be required to undergo a comprehensive background investigation when they bid on contracts. The investigations of the vendors and contractors will be conducted by Essex County's Office of Inspector General and the Office of Purchasing.

"When I created the Office of Inspector General, one of the first things I asked Dominic Scaglione to do was to look into how Essex County awarded contracts. I wanted the process changed so the County could avoid any conflicts of interest and ensure the process was kept above board," DiVincenzo said. "This measure is necessary to assure the residents of this County that Essex County intends to safeguard its reputation and perform its duties with integrity," he added.

Questionnaires being developed by the Office of Inspector General and the Office of Purchasing will become part of Essex County's standard bid documents. The questionnaires will request preliminary information about the bidders. Contractors who are awarded contracts will undergo further scrutiny as part of an "examination of suitability" process. Essex County Inspector General Dominic Scaglione, a retired FBI special agent, said the background investigations will seek information about whether a contractor has been debarred from doing business with any government entities; arrested, convicted or indicted on fraud charges, bid rigging, embezzlement, deceit, corruption or false statements; the subject of bankruptcy proceedings; or previously has failed to complete professional contract agreements based on performance issues.

Completed investigative reports on bidders will be compiled by the offices of Inspector General Dominic Scaglione and Purchasing Agent Kevin Galland and will be submitted to an Essex County Board of Ethics, which is in the process of being formed by Scaglione's office. The Board of Ethics will review and render a decision on all reports.

Scaglione consulted with the New Jersey Office of Government Integrity, the New York City School Construction Authority, the New Jersey Division of Gaming Enforcement, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the U.S. Attorneys Office for the District of New Jersey to develop the new review process for Essex County. Scaglione, who worked as a compliance agent in the Las Vegas gaming industry before being hired by Essex County, said the procedure that has been developed for Essex County is similar to the one he used in the gaming industry. He described the process as being "fair yet effective in assessing the suitability of proposed vendors."

An Ordinance authorizing the Office of Inspector General to conduct due diligence inquiries on outside vendors will be presented to the Board of Chosen Freeholders. The Board must approve the Ordinance before the inquiries can be performed.

DiVincenzo and Scaglione also announced the creation of an Ethics Hotline for Essex County Government. "My first Executive Order after being sworn into office was to prohibit County employees from engaging in political activities while working on County time and to root out no show jobs and fraud from within our employee ranks. The hotline will provide a direct link to the Inspector General's Office for people who want to blow the whistle on any wrongful activities occurring in County government," the County Executive said. "This is an important step as we continue to restore the reputation of Essex County."

Anyone with information concerning incidents of fraud, waste, abuse and official corruption in Essex County government are encouraged to telephone the Office of Inspector General at 973-621-4461. All calls will remain confidential.

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