

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE TRIAL COURT
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July 25, 2007


Mr. Don Driscoll
NAGE Trial Court Director
National Association of Government Employees
159 Burgin Parkway
Quincy, Massachusetts 02169

Dear Mr. Driscoll:

I am in receipt of your letter dated July 16, 2007 informing us formally that the members of the bargaining unit represented by NAGE rejected the Trial Court's "last and best offer" of proposals for a successor collective bargaining agreement. You also request in your letter dates for a "more aggressive meeting schedule" for continued bargaining.

The members of the Trial Court's bargaining committee made efforts to be available at the beginning of the summer vacation season in the attempt to reach agreement over a successor contract. We are very disappointed that the Trial Court's proposal was "overwhelmingly rejected" by your membership. As the summer vacation is currently underway, the schedules of committee members will not permit the scheduling of any dates for continued bargaining until after the Labor Day holiday in September. On another note, however, it appears that the overwhelming rejection of what was repeatedly described by the Trial Court as its' best offer indicates that the parties are at an impasse in negotiations and that, given the more than twenty bargaining sessions and the union's position on key issues, we fail to see how the aggressive meeting schedule that you propose would be productive. If we are mistaken in this view, or the union's position has changed, please contact me.

Very truly yours,



Paul T. Edgar
Director of Human Resources

cc: Hon. Robert A. Mulligan, Chief Justice for Administration and Management
Bargaining committee members