

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE TRIAL COURT
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ROBERT A. MULLIGAN
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August 6, 2007

Mr. David J. Holway
National President
National Association of Government Employees
159 Burgin Parkway
Quincy, Massachusetts 02169

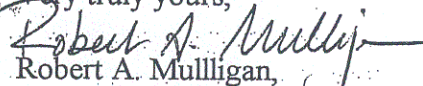
Dear Mr. Holway:

I have received your letter dated August 2, 2007 inviting me to join you personally at the bargaining table in negotiations with the union over a successor collective bargaining agreement. I must respectfully decline your invitation.

Based upon my twenty-seven years as a judge, I have observed the essential work of assistant chief probation officers, assistant chief court officers, probation officers, court officers, associate probation officers, and associate court officers on a daily basis. I doubt that there is anyone in the Trial Court who holds these employees in higher regard than I.

The "last and best" offer that the bargaining committee has advanced on my behalf is the very best that I can do under the present circumstances. I believe that it is more than fair given the budget challenges facing the Trial Court and the practical realities of operating a system of extraordinary complexity. I believe that the offer respects the hard work and dedication of Trial Court employees; I hope that they will be able to appreciate the realities of the current situation.

While I am disappointed that your members rejected that offer, my bargaining committee has been speaking on my behalf and will continue to do so at any future negotiations or other efforts to resolve this bargaining impasse.

Very truly yours,

Robert A. Mulligan,
Chief Justice for Administration
and Management

cc: Bargaining Committee