



AFSCME Rhode Island Council 94

American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO

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PRESS RELEASE

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RI Council 94, AFSCME Calls upon North Smithfield Police to follow the Law

North Providence – Today, the members of Local 937, North Smithfield Town Employees, American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO conducted an informational picket, and called upon the North Smithfield Police Department to stop hurting public safety by eliminating Dispatchers and repeated contract violations.

J. Michael Downey, president of Council 94, explained, “For several months, the North Smithfield Police Dispatchers have endured harassment, intimidation, and gross contract violations. Now, despite having a valid contract in effect, Chief Reynolds has decided to eliminate all of the Dispatchers. Council 94 will not idly stand by and allow Chief Reynolds to eliminate these workers’ jobs. I call upon the Chief to immediately stop his bullying attempts, sit down, and treat our workers with the dignity and respect they deserve. Police officers not only enforce the law. They must also obey the law as well.”

Council 94 has filed multiple Grievances and an Unfair Labor Practice to oppose arbitrary changes to working conditions, retaliation, unjustified discipline, and job eliminations.

President Downey concluded, “While we are willing to work collaboratively with the Town, the Chief has consistently acted in bad faith. Council 94 will pursue all legal remedies at our disposal to obtain justice for North Smithfield’s Town Employees.”

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RI Council 94 AFSCME, AFL-CIO represents over 10,000 active and retired municipal, state, and private sector employees.