

March 28, 2016

SB464 Legislative

Good afternoon Co-chair Senator Fonfara, Co-Chair Representative Berger and all members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee. The Hartford Municipal Employees Association opposes the SB464 legislative bill.

Let me tell you why. First of all, we know that the City has problems. However, in the past we have worked with City Mayors as one collective body to figure these things out.

Mayor Bronin, however, has made no effort to work with us. All he has done is present a list of demands, including that we walk away from collective bargaining. He demands that we increase our pension contribution, increase health contribution, no wage increments, no raises for another three and a half years. Worse, Mr. Bronin has provided absolutely no backup for his demands.

We are open to dialogue and we have offered alternatives for mutual consideration. But the Mayor is not interested in our ideas. He seems to have only one thing on his mind - gaining power and control over us so that he does not have to negotiate.

Thank you for the opportunity allow me to testify before you and I am happy answer any questions.

J. Sean Antoine
HMEA President