

Memorandum

To: James Plosia, Apruzzese, McDermott, Mastro & Murphy
CC: Mayor Adam Schneider
From: Julie J. Acerra, Personnel Officer
Date: 11/14/2007
Re: Yours - "Employee Complaint Issue"

In response to the your memo dated November 9, 2007 stating, "Ms Acerra alleges that Mr. Mehlhorn is attempting to "double dip", please correct for the record:

- I did not make that statement, nor did I make any formal complaint. I choose my words carefully and if I were to make such a serious accusation, I would have put it in writing and I wouldn't have compared money to food. You stated that you were not accepting any "he/said", "she/said", as evidence of wrongdoing. I would hope that you would give me the same benefit of the doubt and apply that rule in my case.
- When I inadvertently learned on **October 2, 2007**, that Mr. Mehlhorn had received two checks (**one in September of 2006 and one in January of 2007**) I also learned he had specifically instructed his employees **NOT** to notify Personnel of the payouts, per normal procedure; the Mayor and Mike Muscillo would be responsible to notify Personnel.
- In the meantime, in his capacity as the Finance Director, Mr. Mehlhorn had been sent two annual reports **with the 400 days still intact**. He never made any attempt to correct the reports or to notify Personnel in any manner, that he had, in fact, been paid for **200 days in 2006** and then **another 200 days in 2007**. Both Tara and I were doubtful he that did not see the reports, since he makes a habit of scrutinizing each report we send to him in search of errors, and once sent a full-

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page memo to this office, regarding ¼ of an hour mistake. We were told it was because he is so thorough.

- You stated to me that Personnel did not need to know about these payouts, that Finance has records. I don't believe that you realize that while they do have records of all checks, to our knowledge, there is only one set of books with the PTO balances on them, and they are in the Personnel Office. Mr. Mehlhorn, himself, has stated on several occasions that Personnel Time Records are *the only ones that count*.
- You quoted Lt. Sama and Capt. Antonucci in your memo, and asked me several times during the meeting with yourself, Mr. Woolley and me, if I was in fear for my safety and several times I answered, "Yes".
- I went to the Police Department to speak with Lt. Sama when I was upset about the situation regarding the payout and because I had reason to believe that a crime may have been committed or that there was a potential for one. The kind of money we are talking about is over \$200,000.00. Overwhelmed with the responsibility, I felt that maybe I should report to a higher authority, at another location. I trusted Lt. Sama because he had been assigned to escort me to the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office a few years ago, after a situation with a city employee, was not resolved internally. It had everything to do with me fearing for my personal safety. Lt. Sama listened to me, but was busy that day and could not help me. After thinking about it all, I called Lt. Sama back and told him that I would take care of the situation myself.
- In retrospect, I should never have spoken to Capt. Antonucci and involved him. I was agitated when I saw him, as he reported, but I trusted him too, mainly because I have known his family for years. That's just the way it is in Long Branch.
- At the meeting on November 9, 2007, we agreed that I would present this rebuttal to you.

Please see the addendum attached, with my recommendations for pro-active and proper record keeping for the future.

Thank you.