

## **A Few minutes with the Boss**

*By: Joseph Andalina*

### **A New Year and the Money Grab Continues**

Well, folks, here we are in January 2010. A new year; a new decade. Hope for peace and prosperity in the future. But the same old crap from your towns and villages. Their hope for peace and prosperity is not for you, the humble police officer, magnanimous sergeant or lieutenant, or the telecommunicator who has to put up with us all.

No, it is their peace and prosperity they are after. In town after town, in “pueblos” large and small, our political types are still badgering and threatening for concessions of your hard-earned contracts. The money grab continues.

The employers of the various agencies we represent are still seeking concessions in wages and benefits, or your peace shall be broken by the threat of layoffs. In about 20-25 towns so far, there have been at least a whisper of layoffs—or else! In some towns, these layoffs were averted by the sheer fact that that the cop stood up and said **no**. In others, “they” found money or made cuts in non-essential services. Which means that the pork barrel projects were put on hold until the Roaring 20’s return. Yes, some civilian workers lost some jobs, but that is the employers doing, not the unions.

In some villages, layoffs are imminent as cops are still saying **no**. And in three or four towns, some police officers were actually laid off. You may have read about them in the news, as four were laid off in Hoffman Estates, three in Plainfield, two in Roselle, and one or two are on the cusp in other municipalities, which we will not mention, allowing sleeping dogs to just lie.

In all these cities, the cops were stricken from the roles while either in the academy, just out on probation, or with a short time on the job. All because the cops have said **no** to getting pushed around. They have said **no** to the threats and they have said **no** to the politicians’ money grab.

They have said **no** to blaming the union and have identified the monsters in their midst as the employer who seeks to have the police fund the mistakes of many, many purveyors of evil (politicians). They have said **no** to the money grab and to the realization that the politicians are using the brotherhood of police officers to feel for one another and give up money rather than see a brother or sister officer lose their employment.

Tough? You bet it is. For the cops losing their job, the local chapters who vote no to concessions, and to this union who will not agree to break open a good-faith or awarded contract. While the union maintains some wiggle room to discuss the rationale behind the claims of “We ain’t got the money –so we are taking yours,” for the most part we want your eyes to be wide open before you ever consider a concession.

You see politicians lie. Chiefs, too. Chiefs invariably sit on the wrong side of the table and will convince you to take the concessions for their own nefarious perverted reasoning, which is usually just the mayor is making them do this. Are there some that are still cops? Sure, but I hazard to name them in order to not make them a pariah among their peers.

We will discuss concessions more deeply again in an upcoming MAP *Rap Sheet*. For now, however, know that most agencies are tinkering with the money grab even if it has not yet been voiced. If the money grab works in one place, it may work in another. It's like collusion with athletic free agents when ownership tries to drive the costs down by not making offers.

But remember this, which again we will address again later:

1. Give up your money and you will never, ever, ever get it back
2. It will affect your pension in the mid- to long-term.
3. The employer will use your good faith concession as an acknowledgement of their financial difficulties and use it against you next contract.
4. As the old Louisiana cook Justin Wilson used to say, "I guarantee!"

Stay safe.