



Robert Cox <mediablogger.org@gmail.com>

Fwd: More Trouble for Aramark in New Rochelle: Staff and Children Exposed to Asbestos at Davis Elementary School

Robert Cox <robertcox@talkofthesound.com>
To: Jeffrey Korostoff <JKorostoff@newrochelle.k12.ny.us>

Fri, Jun 13, 2014 at 11:47 AM

Jeff,

There are two key people, [REDACTED]

Jeff Gilliam is the President of the Educational Services Division of Aramark
Steven Weiser is the Regional VP of the Educational Services Division of Aramark with responsibility for the greater NYC area.

I have spoken to Weiser in the past and send him two emails (below).

My suggestion would be to contact Weiser, come to an understanding of the serious nature of the issues and ask him to propose a response.

Wait to see if he offers up the name of Jeff Gilliam — to gauge how seriously he is taking this matter — and whether he is prepared to come to you. It is a test of whether they consider this a serious matter and whether they feel the need to take serious action.

If he does not bring up a meeting and/or the name Jeff Gilliam after a bit, then you bring it up by telling him that if Aramark is interested in a positive relationship going forward you are going to expect Mr. Weiser to arrange a meeting in New Rochelle by the end of this month that includes someone at the level of Jeff Gilliam or above.

I cannot imagine you would send a letter not drafted or at least approved by Jeff Kehl so I am not going to actually write a letter or part of a letter.

What I will say is I think the nature of the approach should be along these lines...

It is not entirely clear the exact nature of our relationship. We had a contract for many years. We then sought bids to an RFP for a new contract. Aramark was the only bidder in June 2014 but no contract was ever put in place. The contract we have always had with you, going back many years, is that we have the right to request a replacement of the management team at any time for any reason. We wish to do so now. So, whatever each of us believes is the case with the status of contracts, my question to you is this "will you object to our request to replace the management team in New Rochelle"? Furthermore, if we make that request, how would that work?

Once you have gauged his reaction to that — which had better be "we would most definitely NOT object" - you can go farther...

We have immediate needs over the summer to oversee certain construction work. Mr. Gallagher is already familiar with the work that needs to be done and the buildings where it needs to be done. At the same time, we feel that strict oversight by your company of the current Aramark team is of vital importance. How can we balance your needs with our needs, namely our desire to replace the management team as quickly as possible, our need to be assured that past practices which have gotten us to this point will cease, that we can have a smooth transition to a new team but also that our schools will be ready to open in September? Finally, without pointing fingers, we feel a lot of milk has been spilled here and that Aramark has some obligation to be a big part of clearing that up. We want to hear about any personnel you might have that have direct experience righting the ship in situations like we have here in New Rochelle, a specialist who could be on site for some reasonable period of time in addition to a new team (at your expense).

Once we come to a meeting of the minds on these questions and begin to implement your plan to restore our confidence in your ability to manage our B&G operations then we can proceed to the next step, to discuss putting in place a contract along the lines envisioned in the RFP. If we cannot do that, then I will need to turn the matter over to our counsel.

That last line will, of course, get their attention so you convey that this is a one time offer to patch things up and move on.

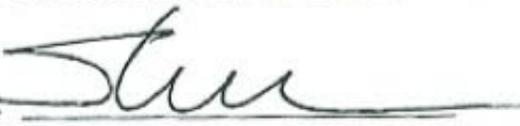
Start with this guy....

I see no reason not to call him forthwith.

Steven Weiser
215-409-7990
weiser-steven@aramark.com

ARAMARK MANAGEMENT SERVICES LIMITED PARTNERSHIP

By: Its General Partner, ARAMARK SMMS LLC

By: 
Steve Weiser
Authorized Representative

1717 Arch Street, 4th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19103
phone 215-409-7990
weiser-steven@aramark.com
aramark.com

235764.0

Begin forwarded message:

From: Robert Cox <robertcox@talkofthesound.com>
Subject: More Trouble for Aramark in New Rochelle: Staff and Children Exposed to Asbestos at Davis Elementary School
Date: August 5, 2013 at 4:05:33 PM EDT
To: weiser-steven@aramark.com

Mr. Weiser,

We have spoken before with regard to New Rochelle, NY.

We are reporting today that John Gallagher, your employee, directed workers of a plumbing contractor to proceed to remove carpeting and flooring from a school office after the workers encountered what they believed to be asbestos. The work took place on July 16th, 2013 during the school day with children and staff in the building. Asbestos material was then illegally disposed off by mixing the material with district trash. The area was not sealed off, the building was not evacuated, no air monitoring was done and no staff or students were notified (until today).

After our first story last week, Assistant Superintendent John Quinn ordered that tests be run over the weekend; those tests confirmed the the tiles from the office contained chrysotile.

It appears that after employees working under Mr. Gallagher complained about being required to handle asbestos tiles, debris and carpeting with asbestors stuck to it, Mr. Gallagher may have lied to state officials investigating the matter as well as school officials and brought in a licensed asbestos contractor four days later oestensibly to remove asbestos material from an adjoining office but in reality part of an attempt to create a paper trail that might allow him to mask the illegal removal and dumping of asbestos material.

I wonder if you would care to comment?

More Trouble for Aramark in New Rochelle: Staff and Children Exposed to Asbestos at Davis Elementary School

<http://www.newrochelletalk.com/content/more-trouble-aramark-new-rochelle-staff-and-children-exposed-asbestos-davis-elementary-schoo>

TILES TESTS POSITIVE: Lab Tests Confirm Asbestos Exposure at New Rochelle Elementary School, Officials Duck and Cover

<http://www.newrochelletalk.com/content/tiles-tests-positive-lab-tests-confirm-asbestos-exposure-new-rochelle-elementary-school-offi>

Robert Cox

Managing Editor
New Rochelle's Talk of the Sound
<http://www.newrochelletalk.com>

Radio Host
Talk of the Sound Radio
Blog Talk Radio Monday 4 p.m. - 6 p.m. & podcast
<http://www.blogtalkradio.com/talkofthesound>
Call-in Studio Line 805-830-8302

Phone: 914-325-4616
Email: robertcox@talkofthesound.com
Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/talkofthesound>

Begin forwarded message:

From: Robert Cox <robertcox@talkofthesound.com>
Subject: HOW YOUR MONEY IS STOLEN: New Rochelle Board of Education Set to Turn Blind Eye to Rat's Nest That is Aramark Schools
Date: June 29, 2012 10:32:15 AM EDT
To: weiser-steven@aramark.com
Cc: Chrisanne Petrone <cpetrone@nred.org>, Jeffrey Hastie <jhastie@nred.org>

Mr. Weiser,

Please recall we spoke in March 2012 when you returned my phone call in regards to a school board resolution in New Rochelle which would have effectively placed your employees on the payroll of the City School District of New Rochelle as pension-eligible hourly employees. Based on our conversation in which you stated "This is the first I am hearing of it," I understood that you had not waived your rights under the Aramark-New Rochelle Schools contract regarding paying your employees (Section 1) and what I will call the non-compete clause (Section 6). I made you aware of the implications of placing your employees on the district's payroll regarding recent changes in the New York State Pension System.

At the end of our call you said you would have someone from your Communications Department get back to me. I never heard back and so, after three months of waiting, have gone ahead with my article:

HOW YOUR MONEY IS STOLEN: New Rochelle Board of Education Set to Turn Blind Eye to Rat's Nest That is Aramark Schools

<http://www.newrochelletalk.com/content/how-your-money-stolen-new-rochelle-board-education-set-turn-blind-eye-rats-nest-aramark-scho>

This week our school board voted without public discussion to extend Aramark Education's contract with the City School District of New Rochelle.

They also read out another resolution based on one we discussed which was tabled on March 27th. That resolution was intended, according to my sources, to put your employees (John Gallagher, Anthony Rigos and James Purdie) on the school

district payroll in the days prior to the deadline for eligible employees to enter the New York State pension system under Tier V as opposed to the less generous Tier VI which was created as part of Gov. Cuomo's pension reform effort in New York. The facts of the resolution, the timing and the reaction of district administrators to a challenge to this resolution (see video in link below) goes a long way to confirm this information, in my view. Resolution 12-266-1, had it been approved, would have made your employees state pension eligible in New York State.

Further, based on separate sources, the resolution appears to be part of an ongoing attempt to defraud a film production company by charging the company for work that was never done by six people including Gallagher, Rigos and Purdie. The company, FTP Productions, is a subsidiary of the Walt Disney Company located in Burbank, CA.

I have spoken to a senior level school district employee who was at the location where the filming was done for the entire weekend. This person is able to confirm what I had previously communicated to you and the New Rochelle Board of Education, that Gallagher, Rigos and Purdie were not at the location during the entire weekend and yet sought to be paid by the district for their time that weekend. In fact, none of the six were present that weekend but the other three are not your concern.

In order to accomplish such a fraud, it would be necessary to falsify business records, a crime in New York State.

While I have not published each and every bit of information I have received in my reporting, the school district employees which are ostensibly

managed by your employees have been engaged in all manner of illegal and improper conduct. Two have been arrested by the Westchester County DA's office (one for working a no-show job, one for soliciting sex from a minor) one was brought up on internal charges related to a sexual assault of a district employee at City Hall. According to my sources, many have been involved in misappropriating school equipment for personal use, stealing time by not working when they are on the clock, wholesale theft and re-sale of inventory, illegal drug use during the work day, misappropriating a school district vehicle to drive to a methadone maintenance clinic, and generally, violating state law and/or school district policy in a variety of ways.

This appears to have occurred, in some if not all cases, with the knowledge and even participation of your employees. For example, one employee under Mr. Gallagher failed to report to work for the entire month he was being followed by investigators from the Westchester County District Attorney. My sources tell me this person had been doing this for years with the full knowledge of his supervisors including your employees and that he was not the only person doing this. This person was later arrested and plead guilty to charges related to working a no-show job. There has never been a public explanation of how an employee working under Aramark employees could fail to appear for work for a month and still be paid.

Many in New Rochelle believe that the three-quarters of a million dollars a year paid by the district to have Mr. Gallagher, et al, manage our Buildings and Grounds department is money wasted because there is not much managing going on and that your own employees are participants

in some of the wrongdoing that is occurring here in New Rochelle.

I have further reports, which I believe to be true, of individuals working for Aramark soliciting and accepting bribes, using drugs, including heavy drugs, during the work day, wholesale theft of inventory and taking school district property for personal use. I could go on but suffice to say that Aramark in New Rochelle, appears to be overseeing what amounts to a criminal enterprise in our Buildings and Grounds Department revolving around large scale time-theft and misappropriation of school property.

I have made a point to pay special attention to Anthony Rigos, one of your employees. According to my sources, Mr. Rigos would not be likely to pass a drug test if one were administered today.

Your company promotes itself as one of the most ethical and admired companies in the world yet in New Rochelle your company has come to be known by many as the exact opposite of that. I was hoping you or someone in your Communications Department could comment on this as well as the article I have published this week (linked above).

Be advised that I have been in contact with both the Westchester County District Attorney's office and the Walt Disney Company with regards to this matter of what appears to be an ongoing effort to defraud the film production company.

Robert Cox

Managing Editor
New Rochelle's Talk of the Sound
<http://www.newrochelletalk.com>

Radio Host

Talk of the Sound Radio

Blog Talk Radio Monday 4 p.m. - 6 p.m. & podcast

<http://www.blogtalkradio.com/talkofthesound>

Call-in Studio Line [805-830-8302](tel:805-830-8302)

Phone: [914-325-4616](tel:914-325-4616)

Email: robertcox@talkofthesound.com

Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/talkofthesound>