



Jody Barr  
Executive Director  
Local 2836

*State University Administrators*

Bernie Bombardier  
President  
Local 1933  
*Town of East Hartford*

Stacie Byrdson  
Secretary  
Local 3194  
*CREC*

**Vice-Presidents**

Ruby Blackmon  
Local 196

*State - Administrative Clerical*

Harold Brooks  
Local 3144  
*City of New Haven*

Patrick Carambia  
Local 391  
*State - Corrections*

Joseph Cirigliano  
Local 2930  
*Town of Newington*

Sandy DeCampos  
Local 991  
*Town of Manchester*

Jon Derman  
Local 2836

*State University Administrators*

Anthony Gochee  
Local 3713  
*MDC*

Marybeth Kaczynski-Hill  
Local 2663  
*State - Social Services*

Thomas Ledoux  
*AFSCME Retiree Chapter 4*

Ron Nelson  
Local 749  
*State - Judicial*

Jeff Reimer  
Local 1361  
*Municipal Law Enforcement Officers*

Leighton Vanderburgh  
Local 1565  
*State - Corrections*

Timothy Walker  
Local 610  
*State - Administrative Clerical*

Claudine Wilkins-Chambers  
Local 3429  
*New Haven Paraprofessionals*

Wayne Wysocki  
Local 1303-278  
*CT Municipals*

February 1, 2022

Mayor Joseph Ganim  
City of Bridgeport  
Margaret E. Morton Government Center  
999 Broad Street  
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Dear Mayor Ganim,

I am writing to you as the Director of Collective Bargaining for Council 4 AFSCME. Our union members include the dedicated officers of the Bridgeport Police Union, AFSCME Local 1159.

The deaths of Lauren Smith-Fields and Brenda Rawls were unspeakable tragedies. Like you, our members share in the sympathies and sorrows that are being extended to their families and friends. As a former police officer myself, I can tell you that no officer is unaffected by situations involving the chilling discovery of victims who are dead on arrival.

Unfortunately, your statements and actions during the Jan. 30 press event made things worse, not better. Ordering the Department to suspend two detectives and place them on administrative leave without an investigation into the facts constitutes an interference with due process.

Your very public actions also inflamed anti-police sentiment at a time when there needs to be a larger discussion about making sure our officers have enough staff, tools, and resources to get the job done for the Bridgeport community. It would be far more constructive for you to allow the collective bargaining process to work fairly, and in a way that will improve department operations and communication, than to blame two detectives before the facts are in.

The rank-and-file officers we represent care deeply about their obligation to serve and to protect the people of Bridgeport. Our members have worked on the frontlines throughout COVID to keep Bridgeport neighborhoods safe and healthy. At the same time, we are witnessing an unprecedented exodus of officers to other towns, which is another sign of the morale problems plaguing the department. The BPD, for example, is already down 8 detectives. What steps will be taken to fill the depleted ranks throughout the entire department to make sure the people of Bridgeport get the best public safety organization they deserve?

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you and address our concerns. We would urge you to respect the concept of due process and to communicate with us in a constructive way so that we're all on the same page when it comes to improving public safety in the City of Bridgeport.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Troy Raccuia', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Troy Raccuia  
Director of Collective Bargaining