

ALBANY POLICE OFFICERS UNION, LOCAL 2841 AND CITY OF ALBANY
INTEREST ARBITRATION

The third and final day of the interest arbitration between Local 2841 and the City of Albany occurred on January 4, 2008. On this day of hearing, the City of Albany presented its case. The City's case consisted of mainly three issues. Those issues are (1) comparable jurisdictions; (2) the justification for the City's negotiations demands; and (3) the City's ability to pay.

The City asserts that the comparable jurisdictions are Schenectady, Syracuse, Troy and Utica. The City also asserted that Towns, such as Bethlehem, Colonie and Guilderland, are not proper comparable jurisdictions to the City of Albany.

The City presented the testimony of Chief James Tuffey. Chief Tuffey described the City's proposals to the Interest Arbitration Panel and gave the City's justification for advancing their proposals to interest arbitration. The City also presented the testimony of Budget Director Christopher Hearley regarding the City's financial position. The City did not argue that it has an inability to pay, but rather that the City's financial outlook going forward is not as stable as it has been in the past.

The next step in the process is for the parties to file briefs with the Interest Arbitration Panel setting forth their positions. Once the briefs are received and reviewed, the Panel will meet to discuss and render the Award. We will keep you posted as this matter develops.
