

Office of the Mayor

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CSEA Unit 7692 Members Vote Down Contract Proposal with City of North Tonawanda

NORTH TONAWANDA—CSEA Unit 7692 (“CSEA”) members voted down a tentative contract agreement that was reached between the City of North Tonawanda (“City”) leaders and the CSEA negotiating team on Thursday evening by a 48-27 margin. Mayor Robert G. Ortt was informed of the news by Union President Bill Davignon via e-mail.

The members of the City Common Council had already unanimously voted in favor of the collective bargaining proposal back on September 6th, and the City was waiting for CSEA to ratify the proposal by its members. Negotiations between the City and CSEA began in December last year prior to expiration of the collective bargaining agreement that expired on December 31, 2010. The agreement called for a two year wage freeze, as well as changes to the prescription drug benefit, moving from a single tier to a three-tier plan.

“The City felt that this was a fair deal given the economic difficulties being faced by City government and our taxpayers. Obviously, the union members didn’t feel that way,” said Mayor Ortt.

“The message from the taxpayers has been clear: public employees must recognize that concessions have to be made to reduce the burden on the private sector. I am disappointed that the majority of the union rejected this deal, and every taxpayer who doesn’t work for the City should be disappointed as well,” stated Ortt.

Union leaders have requested a meeting in an effort to reach a new deal, and Mayor Ortt has accepted the offer to meet.

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