



**Professional Firefighters Association of New Jersey
IAFF, AFL-CIO-CLC**

&

New Jersey State Fraternal Order of Police



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TIME TO STOP BULLYING POLICE AND FIREFIGHTERS!

(Trenton) Governor Christie continues to poke this State's public employees in the eye on a variety of issues ranging from pensions, working conditions, and overall attacks on their integrity. Today Governor Chris Christie held his 118th town hall meeting in Essex County's Fairfield and used it as an opportunity to once again fire a shot across the bow at a segment of public employees - police and firefighters. His latest targeted issue is a fair and balanced interest arbitration law.

New Jersey State Fraternal Order of Police President Ed Brannigan and Professional Firefighters Association of New Jersey President Dominick Marino call on Governor Christie to stop the attacks on police and firefighters whose major interest is the public safety of the residents of this State.

Brannigan says, "The Governor -- instead of holding town hall meetings that are stacked to promote his own political interest--should spend a day walking the streets of Newark, Camden, Jersey City, and Trenton with police officers and going to the site of a fire to see how these public safety officers protect the public at their own risks and that of their families."

Marino points out, “The Governor has tried to bully police and fire for the past five years and pit us against the general public. It is time to see the Governor for what he is – a demagogue who can spend millions of our State-payers dollars on a phony Bridgegate report to try and vindicate himself but attacks police and fire for trying to make a decent living.”

Brannigan also responds to Essex County Executive Joe DiVincenzo’s position that Democrats should “do the right thing” and pass the arbitration cap that Governor Christie supports.

“DiVincenzo is the best example of the pot calling the kettle black--he has taken public money like no other elected official and he is crying about wasting taxpayer monies.”

Brannigan adds, “DiVincenzo is a do as I say not as I do politician who is a double dipper who takes a pension and goes back on the public payroll. It is ironic that Christie stands next to this guy while commenting on the need to reign in taxes.”

The FOP and PFA applaud Speaker Prieto for standing up to the Governor and offering to draft a fair and balanced arbitration bill that both protects police and firefighters while also helping taxpayers. Governor must remember – police and firefighters are taxpayers, too.

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