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July 8, 2010

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The Honorable William J. Lindsay, Presiding Officer  
Suffolk County Legislature  
PO Box 6100  
Hauppauge, NY 11788

Dear Presiding Officer Lindsay:

As you have come to know the Suffolk County Association of Municipal Employees has been embroiled in a battle to save the John J. Foley Skilled Nursing Facility from privatization for several years. We have enlisted the help and support of the legislature and our consultants in our endeavor to protect the residents and our members employed there. Many of you believe, as we do, that if given the right management JJFSNF would flourish and be the jewel in the crown of Suffolk County. It remains AME's fervent belief that provided with the correct tools and the time necessary to allow for those needed changes to take place, there would be no need to consider selling Foley as it has the potential to be self-sustaining.

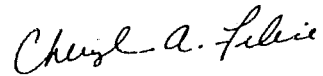
Unfortunately, better management at Foley never occurred which resulted in the County calling for the workers at Foley to consent to concessions in order to meet the budgetary shortfalls. AME tirelessly deliberated over these demands for 250 workers at Foley and considered the effects it would have on 7,000 others in AME. Due to Suffolk's gross mismanagement and our current contract negotiations, the AME Board of Directors unanimously rejected any and all concessions requested for our members at Foley.

We all know that whoever is to purchase Foley; will not buy the nursing home to lose money. Foley is being offered to a private entity at a rate described by some as a "bargain basement" price which only serves to underscore our belief that Foley can and should be able to pay for itself if given the proper latitude to do so. We know that a County-owned facility could provide the same economic result as a private facility, again if given the opportunity. Unfortunately, it appears that opportunity will never see the light of day as once again it falls onto the employees to provide desperate alternatives to save themselves, at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour, after their warnings provided by the Union had not been heeded by management for years.

We will never understand why Foley was allowed to be mismanaged for so long. According to the Employee Relations Manual for the Johnson and Johnson Company "If employees understand the reasons behind an action, the chances are excellent they will respect them." Too bad at Foley, we have neither.

Thank you for all that you have done and will continue to do for the worker's at Foley and AME. As always, I remain available for discussion on this or any other topic pertinent to the Suffolk County Association of Municipal Employees.

Sincerely,



Cheryl A. Felice  
President

CAF/elf

Cc: AME Executive Board  
AME Board of Directors