

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Today, the New Jersey Law Enforcement Supervisors Association (NJLESA), in conjunction with P.B.A. Local #105 filed a law suit against the State of New Jersey and Governor Chris Christie for unlawfully instituting an across the board pay freeze against its members. Included in the NJLESA negotiations unit are New Jersey State Primary Level Law Enforcement Supervisors that work in the New Jersey Department of Corrections, the New Jersey State Juvenile Justice Commission, the New Jersey State Parole Board; the New Jersey State College Campus Police, the New Jersey State Park Police, the New Jersey State Human Services Police, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Police and the Palisades Interstate Park Police. P.B.A. Local #105 is comprised of State Senior Corrections Officers, State Juvenile Justice Officers and State Parole Board Officers. New recruits for these departments are also members of P.B.A. #105. The NJLESA and P.B.A. Local #105 are two of the State's largest law enforcement unions and represent approximately seven thousand (7,000) Sworn State Law Enforcement Officers.

President of the NJLESA, Will Toolen, stated that "Governor Christie's action of instituting an across the board pay freeze that has the potential to effect each and every member of the NJLESA is nothing more than his continued unlawful assault on law enforcement officers in the State of New Jersey." Toolen went on to further state that "In accordance with New Jersey Civil Service Regulations, the members of his Union are due to receive an annual increase in pay by moving up an "increment" or "step" on their ten (10) step salary guide after successfully completing each year of employment".

“I have worked in the Department of Corrections for over fifteen (15) years and not once before has the State or any other Governor ever instituted an across the board pay freeze and denied my members what they are due and owing”.

The suit was filed as a summary action in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Mercer County Vicinage. Due to the fact that the case was filed summarily, Toolen was hopeful that the matter would be heard quickly in an effort to restore the pay increases that his members were expecting. It is most likely that the matter would be presided over by the Honorable Mary A. Jacobson, the Assignment Judge for Mercer County. Judge Jacobson is the same judge that initially ruled a few months ago that the State of New Jersey had to fully fund the public employee pension system for fiscal year 2015. Her decision was overturned a short time thereafter by the New Jersey Supreme Court.