



New York State
**PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
FEDERATION AFL-CIO**

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May 2, 2008

Senator Libous
59-61 Court Street, 7th Floor
Binghamton, NY 13901

Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo
Binghamton State Office Building, 17th Floor
Binghamton, NY 13901

Dear Senator Libous and Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo:

We are writing to express our serious concern of the safety and security of New York State employees at the Glendale Facility in Endicott, N.Y. Four NYS agencies (DDD/OTDA, NYSIF, DOL, and DMV) with over 1,000 employees are located at this worksite. Since the Glendale Facility was opened 11 years ago DDD/OTDA has provided a security guard in the main lobby, one near the 3rd floor entrance in the rear of Building 16 and one in an enclosed office on the 2nd floor (as required by the Social Security Administration to secure federal records). NYSIF also has a guard on the 4th floor. All the resident agencies benefited from the presence of these guards. For reasons not clear to anyone, DDD/OTDA recently made the determination that most of the security in was not necessary, and so by February 1, 2008 they had removed both the security guard stationed in the main lobby and the security guard on the 3rd floor.

We are asking for your intervention in this matter as we are entering our third month without security guards in the front lobby or the rear entrance of this building. The remaining DDD security guard is only there to protect the federal records for the SSA. NYS employees are worried about their safety and security for many reasons. For one, the entire lobby of the building is made of glass. Second, while the NYS employees must use a swipe card for entrance, the doors in the front lobby, take 49 seconds to close (as mandated by the ADA code) to allow adequate time for persons in wheelchairs to move through the doors. Unfortunately it also allows plenty of time for other individuals that do not belong in the building time to enter. Finally, the facility is not in a city setting. Access to public security and first responders are **many minutes away from Glendale, and the employees do not feel safe.**

For all of these reasons, we are all extremely concerned for the safety of all state employees in this facility. As union leaders, we have tried to address this issue in our local and statewide labor/management forums with no resolution. As you may know, the leases of each of the agencies are in their final negotiations and we are told that security will not be a part of any new leases. Security experts and management representatives at the DOL have offered to assist OTDA with risk assessments, funding and provision of a security guard. OTDA/DDD has refused to answer our inquiries, and there still is no resolution in sight at this time.

We would like to sincerely thank you from all of our members for your immediate attention and assistance in this matter. **Our contact person on this matter is: Kathy D'Arminio and she may be reached at 518-257-6983.**

Sincerely,



PEF Article 18 Health and Safety Chair

Heather Gaeta
PEF, DOL, Executive Board

Cathy Kozlowski
PEF,SIF

CC: PEF President Ken Brynien
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John Bergener - PEF OTDA
Mr. James Fehrer - SIF
Rocco Brindisi - PEF SIF
Brad Fish - Glendale Facility Manager