

**Town of Tolland  
Town Council  
February 10, 2009**

**STATEMENT FOR PUBLIC COMMENT  
Ratification of the Town Workers' Contract**

Good evening,

I am Lucy Pantuosco, a library tech assistant for the Town of Tolland, a position that is represented by CSEA SEIU Local 2001.

I would like to offer several comments in support of the Town Council's consideration to approve the contract settlement offer submitted to us by the Town's negotiating team on January 21 and ratified by our membership on January 22.

We understand that as a country, a state and a municipality, we are facing discouraging economic times. As Tolland employees, we are willing to participate in efforts to reduce the financial strain currently facing our municipality. For example, last summer the Town and CSEA members worked cooperatively to reach an agreement that allowed Town Hall to be closed on Fridays. This agreement, while causing no decrease to Town services, resulted in significant energy savings.

During stressful economic times, residents turn to Town services at an increasing rate, And we, in turn, take pride in providing those services to meet residents' needs. All we ask is to be treated fairly, and to bear the burden of economic strain on a basis that is comparable to, not greater than, other employees of Tolland, whether they work in Town Hall or for the Board of Education.

Our vote to accept the Town's offer, while it was not what we hoped for, was made in good faith and in the spirit of cooperation during what we know are difficult times. We ask that you, also in good faith, approve the contract that you proposed and that we ratified.

We look forward to working with you to continue providing outstanding Town services for our residents.

Thank you.