

MARCH 24, 1999

## PAT BAHNKEN FOR PRESIDENT

Welcome to tonight's Presidential Debate. As you can see from the above banner, this is a campaign flyer. But as always, the opinions expressed in this flyer are strictly those of its author, Richard J. McAllan, Senior NYC EMS Paramedic.

I have decided to support Pat Bahnken and run on the Bahnken slate after working with Pat over the last three years on the Executive Board. Certainly the last three years have been very difficult for the members of EMS Local 2507. It is clear to most members now that a corrupt DC 37 and Local 2507 sold the membership a bad deal when they convinced us to quietly accept the illegal EMS/Fire merger. But it is just for this reason that we need a strong President who is willing to make tough decisions and lead this Local into the next century. There are a lot of problems out there—most importantly the threats to our jobs from the so-called voluntary hospitals to the trashing of our contracts by FDNY. I believe that is our slate that can best deal with these problems over the next three years.

### Empty Promises, Bad Merger:

The former leaderships of DC 37 and Local 2507 made a lot of great promises about how our EMS/HHC contracts would not be affected under this merger. But no sooner had the four-month statute of limitations expired than FDNY started violating our EMS/HHC contracts. Of course, DC 37, our collective bargaining representative, remained silent as twenty years of contractual gains were shredded by FDNY.

Plenty of hard fought gains have been lost to our member's betrayal by DC 37. This includes loss of a seat on the Ambulance Purchasing Committee and other EMS Safety Committees to the FDNY Overtime Torture that everyone in this room is familiar with.

At the time of the merger, FDNY promised DC 37 Research and Negotiations that FDNY would honor the EMS/HHC 50% OT cap. They also promised to honor the EMS/HHC contracts and procedures that called for volunteers first in the distribution of OT.

While time has shown all of these promises to be no more than damn lies on the part of FDNY, it is DC 37 corruption that should concern us in this election. Where has our collective bargaining representative been through all of this contract torture by FDNY? Well, based on the guilty pleas of more than one of the DC 37 officers, we know that DC 37 officers and staff were in the DC 37 Mailroom steaming open our 5-year pay increase contract ballots. At this point, there is simply no question that DC 37 engaged in fraud in order to illegally pass a contract that was going down to defeat. More guilty pleas were released today in this DC 37 scandal.

This was all occurring at the same time that DC 37 was selling this illegal EMS/Fire merger to our membership. Although we didn't understand it at the time, DC 37's leadership had betrayed every fundamental principle of union representation to the City and was already a corrupt management union. These corrupt DC 37 leaders closely supported the corrupt Local 2507 leadership in exchange for the Local 2507 leadership's lies that nothing could be done to enforce the EMS/HHC contracts that FDNY was violating.

Of course, these contract lies were the most outrageous lies of all. All public employees in the State of New York work under the "Taylor Law." While this bargaining law is like most laws, a mixed

blessing, it does give labor important bargaining and contract rights that do not exist in many other state bargaining laws. This law allows real unions to enforce their contracts through various Taylor Law mechanisms such as filing Improper Practice Petitions against unilateral changes in the terms and conditions of employment. These enforcement tools are crucial to keeping contractual gains in place over the years.

DC 37's refusal to use these enforcement tools on our behalf has allowed the wholesale violations of our EMS contracts. The real problem here has been our corrupt collective bargaining representative. It's obvious that DC 37 "cut a deal" to allow NYC EMS to be taken over by the Fire Department. But worse than that, it is also obvious that DC 37 cut a deal to let FDNY trash our EMS/HHC contracts over time.

Even DC 37 Executive Director Stanley Hill's removal has done little to expose this particular scandal. The AFSCME Administrators have done a good job of removing officers who have been guilty of financial corruption. Indeed, it was only after Stanley Hill's administration came to an end that the Local 2507 Executive Board was able to obtain the DC 37 proof it needed to remove our corrupt Local 2507 officers.

But so far the DC 37 Administrators have worked to keep this EMS scandal under wraps. The Local 2507 Executive Board has met with these administrators on more than one occasion. So far, the DC 37 Administrators have refused to add Local 2507 to the Hospital Technicians Bargaining Certificate. According to the new DC 37 Administrators, the EMS/Fire merger is just a "past mistake."

Worse, when I made a Motion at the DC 37 Delegates Meeting to extend this "joint bargaining" status to every Local in DC 37, the DC 37 Administrator played parliamentary games to avoid even reporting such a Motion in the Delegate Body minutes. In other words, we all have a lot of work to do to reform our corrupt collective bargaining representative and its Constitution.

#### Bahnken Has Turned This Local Around:

It is just for this reason that I am supporting Patrick Bahnken in this election. I think Pat has done a fine job in picking up the pieces of a Local who had lost all credibility under the prior administration. Pat has worked hard to bring Local 2507 back on course as a labor union. The same comments also apply to Chris Swierkowski and Ed Keenan, who have also worked very hard to stabilize this Local and its finances. At the same time, it has been a great relief for the Executive Board to be able to work with officers that once again have the best interests of NYC EMS at heart. Our views may differ in some areas, but it certainly is a breath of fresh air to see democracy return to Local 2507. It is from this key democratic starting point that great gains can be made. This Local simply does not have time to wait for DC 37 reforms to catch up to our EMS crisis in the next few years. Bahnken has already stood up to DC 37 on behalf of EMS Local 2507's interests. *This Local needs this kind of effective leadership now.* We don't have time to wait for a new President to maybe learn how to do this tough job. We need effective leaders who have already proven they can do a tough job under tough conditions. I believe that the Bahnken slate has already shown that they are doing a good job now.

This Local needs strong leadership who can make the tough decisions that face any leader on a day to day basis. This is even more crucial because of both the City and DC 37 Administration that this Local currently faces. In my view, the other candidates lack either the expertise or the strength of character to properly lead this Local as this critical time. It is for these reasons that I respectfully urge each and every EMS Local 2507 member to vote for Patrick Bahnken and the Bahnken Slate in the upcoming election. Thank You.

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