



Michigan **AFSCME** Council 25

News Release

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AFSCME:

Cyprian Center Fails to Pay Employees

Center Management Calls Detroit Police, Fearing Employee Reaction

Detroit MI April 10, 2007 – Edward L. McNeil, Special Assistant to the President of Michigan Council 25 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), AFL-CIO, issued the following statement regarding the impending closure of Cyprian Center, 4901 Chrysler, Detroit:

“The management of Cyprian Center is attempting to close this Detroit group home, an action which will put almost 30 people out of work,” stated McNeil. “Cyprian has had the employees work without pay. Plus, Cyprian has been withholding money from their pay for various purposes ranging from health care to union dues, but has not been disbursing these funds for the stated purposes. One employee pulled over by police for failure to pay child support because Cyprian had garnished the money, but had not sent the funds to Friend of the Court.

“Cyprian is again holding back the employees’ pay, and pressuring the workers to sign up with another group home provider,” continued McNeil. “This is in violation of the union contract covering these workers: Cyprian has not given the required notice of closure, and is attempting to ignore the successor clause in the contract, which would specifically protect these workers. Cyprian also broke the law by failing to meet with the employees’ union.

“AFSCME went to court seeking immediate injunctive relief to block Cyprian’s outrageous conduct, with a hearing soon to come,” added McNeil. “Meanwhile, Cyprian management has called the Detroit police, and three cars are reportedly standing by on site. Cyprian is apparently fearful of the employees’ reactions to their high-handed tactics.”

“This kind of management misconduct would be a disgrace to any company,” concluded McNeil, “but it is doubly shocking coming from a business owned by members of the prominent Nicholas Hood family.”

Michigan AFSCME Council 25 represents more than 90,000 public workers across Michigan. AFSCME International represents 1.4 million public workers nationwide. News releases issued by Michigan AFSCME Council 25 are available at

<http://www.miafscme.org/Releases.htm>

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