P.E.R.C. NO. 2004-10

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS COMMISSION

In the Matter of

NORTH HUDSON REGIONAL FIRE AND RESCUE,

Appellant-Respondent,

-and-

Docket No. IA-2000-53

NORTH HUDSON FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION,

Appellant-Respondent.

SYNOPSIS

The Public Employment Relations Commission remands an interest arbitration award which establishes a first contract between the North Hudson Regional Fire and Rescue and the North Hudson Firefighters Association. The award is remanded to the arbitrator for the limited purpose of clarifying whether or not he intended firefighters from Union City and Weehawken to have any accumulated sick leave that carries over into the new agreement for sick leave use and, if appropriate, modifying any aspects of the award. The Commission retains jurisdiction.

This synopsis is not part of the Commission decision. It has been prepared for the convenience of the reader. It has been neither reviewed nor approved by the Commission.

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Appearances:

For the North Hudson Regional Fire & Rescue, The Murray Law Firm, LLC, attorneys (Robert E. Murray, of counsel; Timothy Averell, on the briefs)

For the North Hudson Firefighters Association, Cohen, Leder, Montalbano & Grossman, LLC, attorneys (Bruce D. Leder, of counsel)

DECISION

The North Hudson Firefighters Association and the North Hudson Regional Fire and Rescue both appeal from an unusual interest arbitration award, one which established their first collective negotiations agreement. In connection with our consideration of the appeals at our September 25, 2003 meeting, we are entering the following order:

ORDER

The award is remanded to the arbitrator for the limited purpose of clarifying whether or not he intended firefighters from Union City and Weehawken to have any accumulated sick leave that carries over into the new agreement for sick leave use and,

if appropriate, modifying any aspects of the award accordingly. The arbitrator shall provide a written statement to the Commission and the parties so that, absent extraordinary circumstances, we can decide the appeals at our October 30 meeting. The parties shall have five days from the receipt of the statement to comment. We retain jurisdiction.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Millicent A. Wasell
Chair

Chair Wasell, Commissioners Buchanan, DiNardo, Katz, Ricci and Sandman voted in favor of this decision. None opposed. Commissioner Mastriani recused himself and was not present.

DATED: September 25, 2003

Trenton, New Jersey

ISSUED: September 25, 2003