

P.E.R.C. NO. 94-35

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS COMMISSION

In the Matter of

TOWNSHIP OF NORTH BERGEN,

Petitioner,

-and-

Docket No. ID-93-6

NORTH BERGEN PBA LOCAL NO. 18,

Respondent.

SYNOPSIS

The Public Employment Relations Commission finds that a proposal of North Bergen PBA Local No. 18 in successor negotiations with the Township of North Bergen is economic for purposes of submission to interest arbitration. The PBA has proposed that the Township provide automobile insurance for police officers who use their personal vehicles for Township business.

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Appearances:

For the Petitioner, Ruderman & Glickman, P.C., attorneys
(Mark S. Ruderman, of counsel; Ellen M. Horn, on the brief)

For the Respondent, Loccke & Correia, P.A., attorneys
(Manuel A. Correia, of counsel)

DECISION AND ORDER

On April 16, 1993, the Township of North Bergen petitioned for an issue definition determination. The PBA, the majority representative of the Township's officers, has demanded interest arbitration. The parties dispute whether a proposal should be considered economic or non-economic for purposes of interest arbitration.

N.J.S.A. 34:13A-16(f)(1) provides that in interest arbitration each party's economic proposals are to be presented in one economic package while each party's non-economic issues are to be presented separately. N.J.S.A. 34:13A-16(f)(2) defines economic issues:


In the event of a dispute, the commission shall have the power to decide which issues are economic issues. Economic issues include those items which have a direct relation to employee income including wages, salaries, hours in relation to earnings, and other forms of compensation such as paid vacation, paid holidays, health and medical insurance, and other economic benefits to employees.

The PBA has proposed that the Township provide automobile insurance for police officers who use their own vehicles for Township business. We hold that this proposal is economic since it would require the employer rather than the employee to purchase the contemplated insurance.

ORDER

The proposal that the Township of North Bergen provide automobile insurance for police officers who use their own vehicles for Township business is economic for purposes of submission to interest arbitration.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION



James W. Mastriani
Chairman

Chairman Mastriani, Commissioners Bertolino, Goetting, Grandrimo, Regan, Smith and Wenzler voted in favor of this decision. None opposed.

DATED: September 24, 1993
Trenton, New Jersey
ISSUED: September 24, 1993