

## **COUNCIL 4 NEWS STATEMENT**

**Contacts:** Larry Dorman (860) 612-3855

### **Statement from Corrections Local 391 President Jon Pepe Regarding Michael Ross Execution**

*New Britain, CT, January 24, 2005* – Jon Pepe, President of Corrections Local 391 of the American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees (AFSCME), issued this statement in regard to the scheduled execution of Michael Ross:

“Our union represents 1,800 employees of the Department of Correction, including those who work at Northern and Osborn Correctional Institutions. We understand the tremendous interest generated by the scheduled execution of Michael Ross. We also understand the historic dimension of this event.”

“As employees of the Department of Correction, it is our job to serve and protect the citizens of Connecticut by maintaining safety, security and order at each and every correctional facility. It would therefore be improper for us to comment specifically on any inmate, or the nature of our members’ interactions with any inmate.”

“It is our job to follow all guidelines governing the supervision of inmates, as well as the department’s administrative directive on the execution of inmates. That is how we have approached the supervision of Mr. Ross -- in accordance with all rules and regulations.”

*Local 391 is affiliated with Council 4 AFSCME, which represents 35,000 members in state and local government. Council 4 is the largest AFL-CIO union in Connecticut.*

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