

Are we to believe that we have waited almost FIVE years for a 2007 & 2008 raise and to learn that none of the members of our **COBA EXECUTIVE BRANCH** knows exactly when the County Finance Department will give it to us? Our disconnected and disjointed union leadership cannot even deliver a precise date while officers wilt in a hot and stifling facility hoping for that retroactive pay day. The most important commitment a person has is their word and if we cannot trust the word of our President Alonzo West, then what's the point? Most of us made plans because of the information President Alonzo West gave us regarding the date we were expected to receive our raises and retroactively, which was information also disseminated by the DELEGATES.

Our illustrious President Alonzo West did it again! He didn't read the Arbitration Award! He just simply stuffed it in the yellow envelopes hoping and praying that you would not read and/or comprehend it. Talk about adding insult to injury, we pay \$150,000 per year to a big and prestigious New York City law firm that also apparently could not comprehend the Arbitration Award either.

It is as clear as daylight on page # 9, #2 of the Arbitration Award section, as stated by Arbitrator Sands, it reads as the follows: ***“the terms of this award shall be implemented as soon as practicable.”*** The key word is ***“Practicable”***. It means, capable of being put into practice or of being done or accomplished: feasible (a practicable plan).

This means that Westchester County can literally take their time in giving the hard working Correction Officers their raises that they have been patiently waiting for since 2006. It's unfortunate that President Alonzo West has once again blown smoke up the memberships behinds in lieu of him actually working for the benefit of the COBA membership.

Once again, President Alonzo West claims that he brought COBA members the same Arbitration Award as was given to the County PD. Unfortunately, for us he did not!

In the County PD Arbitration Award, by Arbitrator Campagna, on page 2 it states the following: ***“the terms of this award and will make every effort to do so not later than (30) days following the date of the panel chairman's signature but in no event no more than (45) days following such”***. President Alonzo West must answer and be held accountable as to why he could not secure the same language as County PD, if COBA supposedly received the same award! However, as usual he will pass the blame on to the County Finance Department and their shortage of staff, instead of blaming himself as to why we do not have our raises!

President Alonzo West has not only failed miserably to disallow a health care discussion to be included in COBA's 2007-2008 Arbitration Awards; he has also failed to secure a time frame for the membership as to when the raise will actually be implemented.

I welcome all COBA members to visit my website [www.dkjones4cobaprez.com](http://www.dkjones4cobaprez.com) to compare COBA's Arbitration Award against County PD's Arbitration Award and see it for yourself. President Alonzo West did not bring us back a win; he brought us back a death sentence for all (active and retired) COBA members.