

## The Truth Will Set You Free

We all remember the so-called big ruling on the 207c litigation. Unfortunately, the department has not made any revisions that President Alonzo West conceded would be attached to these decisions.

We all also remember the bold interpretations of these decisions from President Alonzo West and COBA Attorney Steve Isaacs that said over a year ago that COBA members would no longer have to use their accrued time after filing Job injury and by COBA winning the litigation would cost the county millions.

For some ungodly reason, COBA has now limited the potential financial impact of the litigation to only 500 thousand dollars and approximately 50 COBA members. Like many officers that are still being affected, I await clarification of the changes. More important, I await strict enforcement of the court's ruling. Are we to believe that our COBA leaders are too weak to enforce a ruling that is in the favor of the membership they have been elected to represent?

I am always pleased when a court rules in favor of COBA and its members. I am also concerned when the COBA leadership invokes the smoke and mirrors game by evading the production of information related to the cases and other workplace issues. Our COBA leadership has not been truly transparent about ALL litigation including but not limited to grievances, PERB hearing and other court cases.

As dues paying members of COBA we have the right to know what grievances have gone to arbitration over the past 3 years. We have the right to know the outcomes of these grievances, won, lost, tabled, withdrawn or settled. This is a standard that should apply in forums of litigation concerning COBA.

When was the last time we received a comprehensive and accurate account of all COBA litigation? The membership should be informed off all litigation outcomes, not just the occasional win. We can no longer be a membership left in the dark wondering why management is constructively aiding our demise. If there are decisions or settlements that erode the contractual protections, COBA members have the right to know.

On behalf of COBA members I will formally request this information from President Alonzo West.

Once I receive a response from President Alonzo West, I will make it available for all to read.