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FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

APRIL 23, 2021 4:00 PM

OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

Rupert Baptiste

**MUR 7664
SUPPLEMENT**

Union NJ 07083

April 21, 2021

Dear Sir or Madam:

I, Rupert Baptiste, am writing to the Federal Election Commission in regards to the Local 9 Plumbers and Pipefitters Union here in the state of New Jersey.

The union has been taking money from the paychecks of its members without their expressed consent and even against their requests not to, for the Benevolent, Target, and PAC funds and a newly added Building fund which was added 2019, taking our 0.25/hr from paychecks for putting a new building up.

In 2018, the Union settled in court, however they have not been following the settlement agreement, in which they agreed to issue a letter informing members that they could request refunds for the Benevolent, Target, Building and PAC funds. Anyone who has called to request a refund, gets yelled at and hung up on by Mike Maloney, business manager and treasurer for Local 9. He is also strong arming and intimidating members into signing consent forms that allow the union to have these funds taken out of their paycheck and if they refuse he and another business agent tell people they would not have a future if they do not sign the consent form.

As of 2019, anyone who wants to request a refund must now do so publicly at union meetings in front of all members in attendance. They called this the "walk of shame" at the last business meeting in September, because it is used to deter members from standing up and asking for their money back. This is a violation of privacy put forth by both Federal and State laws. Requests for refunds have always been done in writing a letter, registered, to the union.

I have requested a refund from Mike Maloney, multiple times, and while I received a refund for two of the voluntary funds, I have not received a refund from the other two funds.

Fraternally,
Rupert Baptiste