

ing and the right to unionize reference by

n conducted a th by similar margins found that most people support linking the union issue to the cancer center," said Bill Meyer-son, spokesman for District 1199 of the Service Employees International Union.

pol, conduct-berg, Quinlin, arch Inc. in D.C., included en residents. It of error of 3.5 monized work- the 150 food nel, now rep- the SEU. That o add the 1,800 the hospital.

n DeStefano Jr. he feared the he will stall hospital and and agree to cret ballot elec- of the National ns Board.

New Haven resident Rob Leonard shovels snow at his Westville home Tuesday.

Mia M. Makroff/Register

Arbitrator orders marshal reinstated with pay

By Michelle Tuccitto
Register Staff

degree assault and deprivation of a person's rights by force or threat after the incident.

NEW HAVEN — A judicial marshal who was among those fired after a prisoner abuse scandal is to be reinstated with back pay, according to an arbitrator's award.

John Barron Jr. was terminated after the April 26, 2003, incident at the New Haven police lockup at 1 Union Ave.

Attorney Gregory Cerritelli, who represents Barron, said his client was fired after being accused of failing to intervene to protect the prisoner and failing to file a report on the incident.

Barron filed a grievance in an effort to get his job back, and an arbitrator, Peter Adomeit, sided with Barron in a decision dated Feb. 25.

"This is a vindication for John, who never should have been terminated in the first place," said Cerritelli.

Another marshal, Roosevelt Lee, was charged with third-

beating is unclear. In addition to the videotape, police cited the statements of prisoners and staff in the affidavit. One witness, a ball commissioner, told investigators that he saw Lee punch the prisoner and throw him to the ground, the affidavit says.

In his recent decision, Adomeit concluded that "Barron was tricked," into assisting Lee with removing the prisoner from his cell.

"He had no idea what Lee was going to do," Adomeit wrote. "I conclude that Lee used excessive and unnecessary force. Barron is not responsible for Lee's conduct."

No criminal charges were lodged against Barron. Barron has been out of work since his termination. The award means more than a year's worth of back pay.

Rhonda Stearley Hebert, a spokeswoman for the Judicial Branch, said Tuesday the office has not yet seen the arbitrator's

decision and declined comment.

Attorney Michael Jefferson, who represents Lee, said his client was unsuccessful in getting his job back at an arbitration hearing last year.

"I'm happy for John," Jefferson said. "I don't think the actions taken against him or former Marshal Lee were justified. It appears Rudy (Roosevelt) Lee is the fall guy in all this."

A supervisor at the time, Patricia Godowski, was also terminated and has a grievance pending to get her job back. No charges were lodged against Godowski.

Lee claims he didn't do anything wrong, and only acted in self-defense by restraining a violent inmate who was struggling with several marshals.

"He followed proper protocol and procedure," Jefferson said. "Everyone implicated and terminated is getting their job back except Rudy Lee. I think there is something wrong with that picture."

Group determined to find end to chronic homelessness in 10 years

By Randall Beach
Register Staff

NEW HAVEN — In its first meeting, held Tuesday at City Hall, a coalition committee took the first steps in an ambitious plan: ending chronic homelessness in New Haven within the next 10 years.

Those who had assembled admitted they face stubborn obstacles, including a lack of

spent three hours in a kind of workshop on the homeless issue.

Gary Spinner, chairman of the steering committee and the New Haven Homeless Advisory Commission, said it is possible to "help the 300-400 people who are chronically homeless here and eventually get them into permanent housing."

According to the New Haven Continuum of Care, in 2004 there were 1,113 homeless peo-

at the Columbus House shelter, said the number of women at the shelter has doubled in the past two-and-a-half years. "We're seeing 60 women a night," she said.

The city's new effort to address homelessness is part of a nationwide trend. President Bush has endorsed the idea of ending homelessness in a decade and created the Interagency Council on Homelessness. Regional administrators are working on

administrators are working on

regional manner. It's not just New Haven's problem."

Spinner, chief operating officer at the Hill Health Center, said he recently spoke with a resident of a New Haven shelter who came here from New London.

"I asked him why he was here," Spinner said, "and he told me, 'There's no homeless shelter in New London.'"

backs are making the affordable housing problem even worse.

This is happening at a time when the South Central Region Council of Governments has estimated New Haven needs 13,200 new units of affordable housing.

But the steering committee will press on, holding more meetings and a public forum, probably in April. By the end of May the members intend to deliver a written report on their plan

need America to open the door of opportunity a little wider." Jean and her mother were jailed after federal officials rejected their request for political asylum, and legislation has been introduced in Congress to allow her to stay legally in this country. Hamilton and others said studies estimate that 65,000 illegal aliens graduate from high school every year in the United States. They argued that requiring such students to pay high out-of-state tuition rates prevents many from attending college.

Peter Rosazza, auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Hartford, said the sons and daughters of illegal immigrants shouldn't be punished for being brought to this country through no choice of their own.

"These young people dream the American dream along with their classmates," Rosazza said. In order to qualify for in-state tuition rates, the bill would require that a student who is illegal alien demonstrate that or she had spent at least 10 years in Connecticut schools, registered as an entering student at a state college or university and provide a sworn statement showing he or she is seeking obtain legal status.

Gregory B. Hladky can be contacted at ghladky@nhregister.com or at (860) 524-0719.