



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
OFFICE LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS
WASHINGTON DC 20420

AUG 13 2007

Alberta Franklin
AFGE Local 490
P.O. Box 24236
Los Angeles, CA 90024

Dear Ms. Franklin:

We acknowledge receipt of your grievance, faxed and received in our office on July 16, 2007, regarding the consolidation of the Veterans Benefits Administration's (VBA) Virtual Information Centers (VIC). As part of your grievance you claim that the Department of Veterans Affairs (Department) has refused to bargain in good faith with AFGE (Union); has repeatedly refused to provide documents requested by the Union; and, has bypassed the Union by communicating directly with the bargaining unit over proposed changes to conditions of employment.

Per Article 42, section 11ⁱ of the Master Agreement, we would like to schedule a meeting to attempt to resolve the instant grievance. We propose the following dates to have a conference call to discuss this matter:

- August 16-17 or 23-34, 2007.
- September 4-7, 2007.

We would also be amenable to schedule a face to face meeting, the week of the AFGE's Semi-Annual meeting, scheduled for the week of September 10, 2007.

We thus request an extension of the forty five (45) day timeframe to provide a final written decision to the grievance. We request a two week extension, from the date of the requested meeting, to provide our final response to the grievance.

Please call Denise Biaggi-Ayer at 202-461-4129 or e-mail her at Denise.Biaggi-Ayer@va.gov to confirm your availability, and to confirm your agreement to the requested extension.

Sincerely yours,

Meghan Flanz
Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Labor-Management Relations

ⁱ Article 42, Section 11B provides in pertinent part:
"Upon receipt of a grievance, the parties will communicate with each other in an attempt to resolve the grievance."



**NATIONAL VETERANS
AFFAIRS COUNCIL**
American Federation of Government Employees
AFFILIATED WITH THE AFL-CIO

Rec'd
SEP 06 2007
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NOTICE TO INVOKE ARBITRATION

Date: September 6, 2007

To: Meghan Flanz, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Labor-Management Relations,
Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

Re: National Grievance in the matter of the Consolidation of Virtual Information Cenetr

From: Bill Wetmore, Chair, Grievance and Arbitration Committee, National Veterans
Affairs Council, #53, (NVAC), American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE)

This is our notice to invoke arbitration as provided in Article 40, Section 1 of the Master
Agreement between the Department of Veterans Affairs and the American Federation of
Government Employees, signed March 21, 1997 (MCBA)

