

Children's Committee Public Hrg
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Council 4 AFSCME

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Larry Dorman (860) 612-3855 (office) or (860) 989-9127 (cell)

Red Cross Union Criticizes “Cheap Buzz” Bloody Mary Blood Drive

Feb. 16, 2013 – The union representing blood drive workers in Connecticut today criticized the Connecticut Blood Services Region of the American Red Cross for conducting a blood drive at a Rhode Island pub that is enticing donors with Bloody Marys for a “cheap buzz”

“It’s just plain wrong and possibly dangerous for the Red Cross to allow the promotion of alcohol consumption at a blood drive,” said AFSCME Local 3145 President Nancy Newton, whose members are being assigned to staff the February 17 event at @ The Deck Restaurant and Bar in Newport, Rhode Island.

In a flyer for the event (attached to this e-mail), blood donors are being invited to give blood and get a “cheap buzz” during the “First Annual Absolut Bloody Mary Competition.”

On its Facebook page, @ The Deck says this about the event: “@ The Deck Restaurant & Bar is bringing competition and drinking to a whole new level on February 17th! @ The Deck has teamed up with Absolut, The American Red Cross, and Newport’s 25th Annual Winterfest to see who has what it takes to make the best Bloody Mary. Be the first to be crowned the champion of the “Annual Absolut Bloody Mary Competition.”

Meanwhile, the Red Cross itself on its website recommends drinking at least four glasses of “non-alcoholic” beverages (not 80-proof vodka) after a donation. It also advises that donors may feel dizzy or lightheaded, both conditions that can be made worse by consuming alcohol.

“The Red Cross should set a responsible example and not allow donation sponsors to provide dangerous, boozy incentives in exchange for blood. If you donate blood you should get cookies and juice, not enough alcohol to knock you off your feet,” Newton added.

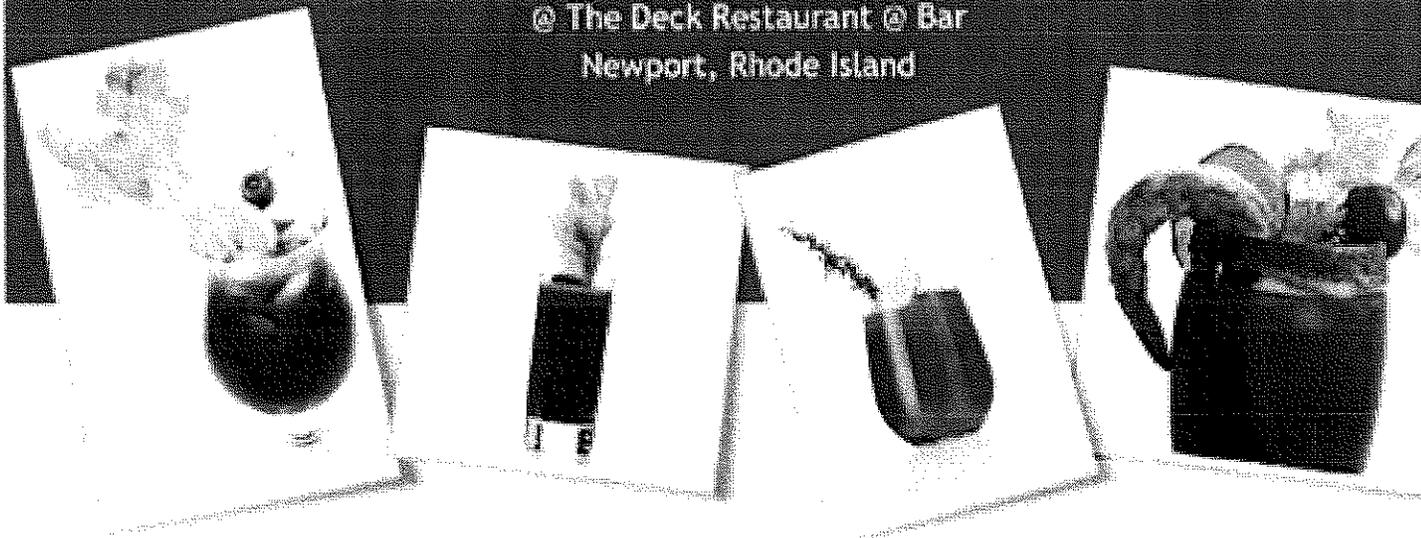
AFSCME Local 3145 represents front-line blood collection workers at the Connecticut Blood Services Region of the American Red Cross in Farmington, CT and is affiliated with Council 4 AFSCME. Based in New Britain, Council 4 is the voice of 32,000 workers across Connecticut. Learn more at www.council4.org

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Larry Dorman
Council 4 Public Affairs

Build Your Own Bloody Mary & Blood Drive

@ The Deck Restaurant @ Bar
Newport, Rhode Island



Be the first to be crowned the champion of the "First Annual Absolut Bloody Mary Competition".

Join us Sunday, February 17th, 2013 as we team up with *Absolut* & The *American Red Cross* to see who has what it takes to make the best *Bloody*.



We ask that you join us to support the *American Red Cross* as we host a Blood Drive during the competition.

Sunday, February 17th, 2013
11am-5pm

Cheer on your favorite mixologist, as we will have a "Peoples Choice" winner! Or donate Blood and check out the creative booths!

Donate your Blood for a good cause, and then have a Bloody for a cheap buzz!

