



## State's largest police union calls for Essex County Executive Joe DiVincenzo to resign

Published: Friday, April 01, 2011, 10:10 AM Updated: Friday, April 01, 2011, 2:18 PM



By **Chris Megerian/Statehouse Bureau**

**NEWARK** — The state's largest police union called on Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo Jr. to resign today in the wake of revelations that he is receiving a salary and a pension for the same job.

"This is unbelievable, the man is out yelling about reform and he takes a loophole to retire at a higher salary, a classic example of do as I say not as I do," State Policemen's Benevolent Association President Anthony Wieners said in a statement. "This exposes him as a fraud and just another politician who lies to the public."

DiVincenzo quietly put in his retirement papers in August, allowing him to start drawing a \$5,738 monthly pension payment. But a loophole allows him to continue serving in the same position, earning \$153,207 last year. State law allows elected officials in the public employee and police pension systems to "retire" but keep working.

The loophole allows public employees to retire while still holding elected office, as long as they previously held a different public job. In DiVincenzo's case, he previously worked as a parks supervisor and school athletics coordinator.

DiVincenzo said he's not going to resign and plans to run for a fourth term, saying he earned his pension after 29 years of public service.

"People have their own point of view," he said. "We have been going through difficult labor negotiations. And I understand why they're upset. I had to make a decision that was in the best interests of my family."



John Figlar / For The Star-Ledger

The head of the state's largest police union called for Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo Jr., pictured above, to quit in the wake of revelations that he is receiving a salary and a pension for the same job.

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He also didn't object to pending legislation that would close the loophole.

"The governor feels very strongly about changing the law. I'm very open to it," he said. "Everything should be on the table and should be looked at."

DiVincenzo, a Democrat, has clashed with law enforcement unions as he works with Republican Gov. Chris Christie to roll back pension and health care benefits for public employees.

On Thursday, a Christie spokesman declined to comment on DiVincenzo's pension.

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