

# Westchester CSEA, 'disgruntled,' plans protest



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**The labor union, which includes support staff and parks workers, has been without a contract since 2011.**



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**Kwabena Manu, president of the Civil Service Employees Association Unit 9200, shown in his office.** (Photo: File photo by Mark Lungariello/The Journal News)

A Westchester County public-sector union with 3,000 members plans to rally outside of a county building next month, protesting five years without a new labor contract.

CSEA Unit 9200, whose contract expired Dec. 31, 2011, will hold demonstrations at the Michaelian Office Building in White Plains on June 7, from noon to 2 p.m. and again from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Union president Kwabena Manu said the union has been waiting for the

latest offer from the administration of County Executive Rob Astorino, a Republican. "The members are disgruntled, they feel this the longest they've gone without a contract," he said. "They want their voices heard and they continue to do more with less."

Ned McCormack, a spokesman for Astorino, said the administration had no comment on the protest except to say, "We continue to work with the parties to try and get to a contract." McCormack said it was the union, not the administration that rejected the last contract offer.

There has been little motion on negotiating a new contract since 2014, when the union rejected a fact-finder's recommendations to settle the dispute. Those recommendations included a two-year wage freeze and would have CSEA members contribute to their health care for the first time.

Manu said it was a mischaracterization to say the union wasn't willing to contribute to health benefits. The issue with the fact-finder's recommendation, he said, was that some members would end up losing money in the deal.

CSEA members include support personnel, parks workers and others. The seven other labor unions that represent county workers are now also without contracts, but those units had settled and agreed to contracts that included health-care contributions.

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