GASTRONOMICAL WORKERS UNION LOCAL 610
AND METROPOLITAN HOTEL ASSOCIATION
PENSION FUND

TELEPHONE
Toll Free: (866) 424-5610

911 RIDGEBROOK ROAD
SPARKS, MARYLAND 21152-9451

EBSA/PUBLIC DISCLOSURE
2009 SEP 29 AM 6:59

September 25, 2009

U.S. Department of Labor
Employee Benefits Security Administration
Public Disclosure Room, N-1513
200 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20210

Re: Gastronomical Workers Union Local 610
and Metropolitan Hotel Association Pension Fund
EIN: 66-0308040 PN: 001 PYB: 6/1/09

To Whom It May Concern:

Enclosed is a copy of the Notice of Critical Status provided to participants of the Gastronomical Workers Union Local 610 and Metropolitan Hotel Association Pension Fund for the Plan Year beginning on June 1, 2009.

Sincerely,

Linda DuVall

Linda DuVall, CEBS
Administrative Manager
For the Board of Trustees

cc: Board of Trustees

Enclosure

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NOTICE OF CRITICAL STATUS
FOR
THE GASTRONOMICAL WORKERS UNION LOCAL 610 AND METROPOLITAN HOTEL ASSOCIATION PENSION FUND

The purpose of this Notice is to inform you that, on August 28, 2009, the actuary of the Gastronomical Workers Union Local 610 and Metropolitan Hotel Association Pension Fund ("Fund") certified to the U.S. Department of the Treasury, and also to the Board of Trustees of the Fund, that the Fund is in critical status for the Plan Year beginning June 1, 2009. Federal law requires that you receive this Notice.

The Fund is considered to be in critical status because it has funding or liquidity problems, or both. More specifically, the Fund's actuary determined that over the next three Plan Years the Fund is expected to have an accumulated funding deficiency for the Plan Year beginning June 1, 2009.

Rehabilitation Plan and Possibility of Reduction in Benefits

Federal law requires pension plans in critical status to adopt a rehabilitation plan aimed at restoring the financial health of the plan. The law permits pension plans to reduce, or even eliminate, benefits called "adjustable benefits" as part of a rehabilitation plan. If the Fund's Trustees determine that benefit reductions are necessary, you will receive a separate notice in the future identifying and explaining the effect of those reductions. Any reduction of adjustable benefits (other than a repeal of a recent benefit increase, as described below) will not reduce the level of a participant's basic benefit payable at normal retirement. In addition, the reductions will apply only to those participants and beneficiaries whose benefit commencement date is on or after September 26, 2008. But, you should know that whether or not the Fund reduces adjustable benefits in the future, effective as of September 26, 2008, the Fund is not permitted to pay lump sum benefits (or any other payment in excess of the monthly amount paid under a single life annuity) while it is in critical status.)

Adjustable Benefits

The Fund offers the following adjustable benefits which may be reduced or eliminated as part of any rehabilitation plan the Fund may adopt:

___ Post-retirement death benefits;
_X_ Sixty-month payment guarantees;
_X_ Disability benefits (not yet in pay status);
_X_ Early retirement benefit or retirement-type subsidy;
_X_ Benefit payment options other than a qualified joint and survivor annuity (QJSA);
___ Recent benefit increases (i.e. occurring in the past 5 years);
___ Other similar benefits, rights or features under the Plan

Employer Surcharge

The law requires that all contributing employers pay to the Fund a surcharge to help correct the Fund's financial situation. The amount of the surcharge is equal to a percentage of the amount an employer is otherwise required to contribute to the Fund under the applicable collective bargaining agreement. With some exceptions, a 5% surcharge was applicable in the initial critical year and a 10% surcharge is applicable for each succeeding Plan Year thereafter in which the Fund is in critical status.

Where to Get More Information

For more information about this Notice, you may contact the Fund Office at 911 Ridgebrook Road, Sparks, MD, 21152, (866) 424-5610. You have a right to receive a copy of the rehabilitation plan from the Fund.