

Internequine warfare among unions? Not in La Crosse. Head of the Service Employees union in city hall, Rich Smith, denies there's friction between his union and the police and fire unions, just because protective services are exempt from a new law restricting collective bargaining for most public employees. In fact, Smith hopes cops and firefighters can avoid the eventual fate his members face. An organization of cities last week asked lawmakers to change the law to remove some exemptions from police and fire unions, citing friction brewing among unions statewide. Because of a court challenge in Dane county, the law has yet to take effect.

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