

Artists Win Battle To Protect Mural

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Staff Reporter

Two artists who earlier this year finished a mural for the walls of the Welfare Department's Bassett Street office have won their battle to protect that work of art from being damaged.

A lease agreement between artists Terry Lennox and Ruth Resnick and the

Support Strikers, Aldermen Asked

The New Haven Board of Alderman was asked to support the 1,350 employees striking the Olin Corp., Winchester Ave., last night, after seven persons were arrested on the Olin picket line earlier in the day.

In a trespassing incident, Leroy Spruill, 31, of 74B Brookside Ave., and Richard Carraro, 36, of 44 Pardee Extension, East Haven were charged Wednesday with third degree criminal trespassing when a guard's shack on Olin property was ransacked Tuesday night, and the Mansfield Street gate was broken into. Four other strikers were arrested Wednesday on breach of the peace and interfering with a police officer charges after a shoving incident with police at the plant.

They include Andrew Jones, 31, of 306 Huntington St.; Richard Wentworth, 27, of 248 Starr St.; John Christina, 63, of 80 Michael Road, Hamden, and Theodore Salters, 52, of 111H Brookside Ave.

In addition, George Vessichio, 52, of 512 Woodward Ave. was charged with disorderly conduct as a result of the Wednesday afternoon incident.

city now gives them control over activities which could affect the condition of the painting which spans a wall connecting the agency's lobby and inner office.

"We got much greater protection for the mural. At this point, everything is settled," said Ms. Lennox, who outlined the main points of the four-page agreement reached in May.

The two began the mural in March 1978 while employed under the federal Comprehensive Employment and Training Act. In February of this year, the city unveiled the work which depicts office workers and the poor in warm, earth tones and bright greens and blues.

But, in March — just five weeks after its official unveiling — the mural was damaged when a lobby partition designed to separate department staffers from clients was built in front of the painting.

The partition stopped halfway up the mural and obstructed the public's view of it. In addition, part of the partition was anchored into the wall — into a part of the mural itself.

The artists protested the construction of the partition and entered into negotiations to protect their work. The top of the partition was removed and the artists then obtained the lease agreement.

Ms. Lennox said the welfare office management agreed not to extend the partition unless there was protest from the staff. "Most of the staff didn't want the partition," she said, noting that only two employees asked for it.

Carlton Boyd, deputy welfare director, said there hadn't been any complaints since the top of the partition was removed.

Stipulations of the lease agreement provide that:

- The mural cannot be obstructed in

anyway, nothing may be attached to it and it cannot be cut.

- If there are damages that can be repaired by the artists, they have the right to make those repairs.

- The masonite mural panels, which are screwed into the wall, can be removed and placed in a safe storage place when no longer in the offices.

Stamford M As U.S. Dis

With six cases of champagne and a courtroom full of well-wishers to buoy his spirits, Warren W. Eginton was sworn in Wednesday as the 22nd judge of the U.S. District Court in Connecticut.

Senior U.S. District Judge C. Thomas Smith administered the oath to the 55-year-old Stamford resident as eight other federal district and circuit judges watched.

Eginton, who fills a newly created fifth seat on the federal bench in Connecticut, was hailed by several former colleagues on the state bar as a worthy addition to the federal judiciary.

George Lowman, his former partner at Cummings and Lockwood, the state's largest law firm, remarked, "We will accept your loss with the understanding that you will be making a contribution to an institution even greater than ours."

U.S. Sen. Lowell P. Weicker Jr., who nominated Eginton for the post, said to him in a letter of congratulations, "You are an outstanding human being. They make the best judges."