

“Working Together Works”

IFPTE – 21 ♦ City of Oakland Chapters



Bargaining Bulletin #6

-June 13, 2008-

After almost a one month hiatus, the entire Local 21 bargaining team had their 6th negotiation session with the City of Oakland on Monday June 9, 2008. Although brief, the negotiations showed promise in moving forward after several months of attempts on behalf of the City to stonewall and divide Local 21's bargaining table and membership.

In addition to a remarkable improvement in the City's tone toward Local 21, the City also assured Local 21 of its intent to preserve Local 21's current contract provisions through June 30, 2008 until a new agreement is ratified and implemented. The City acknowledged that any changes, including those to benefits and grievance procedures, would have to be negotiated with the union. The City's Chief

Negotiator Wayne Heine stated, "The City has no intentions of making [unilateral] changes to the contract. All terms and conditions will remain in effect after the expiration of the contract." He elaborated, "We do not want unrest in the City. There is nothing that benefits the employer by making changes to the agreement when both parties are trying to reach a new successful agreement."

“All terms and conditions will remain in effect after the expiration of the contract.”

The Local 21 bargaining team will hold an all-day caucus on Monday, June 16th. Additionally, representatives from Local 21's bargaining team will continue to engage in supplemental talks with the City about its efforts to separate the union's bargaining team and table.

Local 21 Provides Alternatives to Proposed Budget Cuts

On June 11th over 40 Local 21 members in blue UNITY t-shirts gathered with SEIU members to voice their concerns over a proposed one-day-a-month shutdown of all non-essential City services. The cut in services to Oakland residents would also result in 12 days of unpaid mandatory leave over the course of a year. Local 21 presented the City council with a memo¹ outlining financially viable alternatives to achieve the necessary cost savings while mitigating harm to City residents and employees through a furlough.

A logo for the Local 21 Oakland Contract Campaign. It features the words "STRENGTH IN UNITY" in blue, slanted text, with "UNITY" being the largest word. Below "UNITY" is a small circular logo with "192" inside. To the right of "UNITY" is "'08" in blue. Below the main text is a green rectangular box with "LOCAL 21 - OAKLAND" in white text.

WATCH OUT! The Local 21 Oakland Contract Campaign is getting a new look... New buttons are coming soon!

¹ http://www.ifpte21.org/chp_oak/latestnews.shtml

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The Council was appreciative of Local 21's efforts in highlighting effective solutions to closing the City's budget gap while minimizing the impact on City residents and employees. The memo provided to Council included a financial analysis showing that the City has an undesignated fund balance well in excess of its reserve requirements (which are already high compared to other large California cities) that could be used to circumvent a 12 day furlough and retain \$10 million in excess reserves for future budgetary needs. Council member Jane Brunner used the information provided by Local 21 to question Bill Noland, Director of the Finance and Management Agency, about the status of the City's fund balance and the feasibility of its use in the upcoming budget. Council member Jean Quan expressed concern over the disproportionate adverse impact a furlough would have on employees represented by Local 21 and SEIU, who provide a majority of the City's “non-essential services.”

Local 21's Oakland Vice President Jeff Levin addressed the City Council and explained the intent of the memo, “Our proposal is simple: Use your excess fund balance to close the gap without reducing services and without jeopardizing the City's reserves – you'll still have \$10 million above your required reserve level.” Several SEIU 1021 members also spoke to the Council about their concerns surround unilateral cuts to services and wages.

Important Budget Hearing: June 17th, 5pm at Council Chambers

On Tuesday June 17th, the Oakland City Council is expected to discuss and possibly formally adopt a mid-cycle budget for FY 08-09. Although Local 21 members voiced our concerns to the Council last week about a furlough and cuts to City services, this may be our last chance to remind them that 12 unpaid



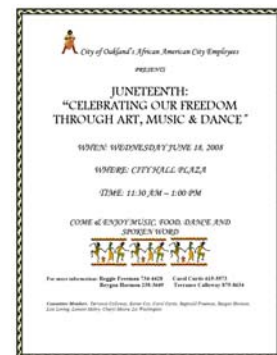
days hurt everyone! Wear your L21 UNITY shirt, or get one at the door, and join your colleagues and Local 21 in sending a clear and united message to the City Council — The budget cannot be balanced on our backs!

Save the Date!

Please join Local 21 members at two upcoming events promoting multiculturalism and diversity in the City of Oakland! Both events are open to all City employees:

Wednesday June 18th, 11:30am-1pm at City Hall Plaza

The City's of Oakland's African American Employees Association invites you to enjoy music, dance, food, and spoken word at **“Juneteenth: Celebrating Our Freedom through Art, Music & Dance.”**



Thursday June 19th,

Noon-1pm at City Hall Plaza

The City of Oakland's Filipino American Employees Society welcomes you to **“Fiesta Filipiniana,”** an event filled with food, music, and dance from the Philippines.

