

# “Working Together Works”

## IFPTE – 21 ♦ City of Oakland Chapters



### *Bargaining Bulletin #5*

### *-June 6, 2008-*

*With less than one month until the expiration of our MOU, the City continues to attempt to divide Local 21's bargaining team and delay negotiations. Although we have not officially sat at the negotiating table with the City for over three weeks due to cancellations on the part of the City, Local 21's bargaining team has been proactive in trying to resolve these issues so we can negotiate a new contract in good faith.*

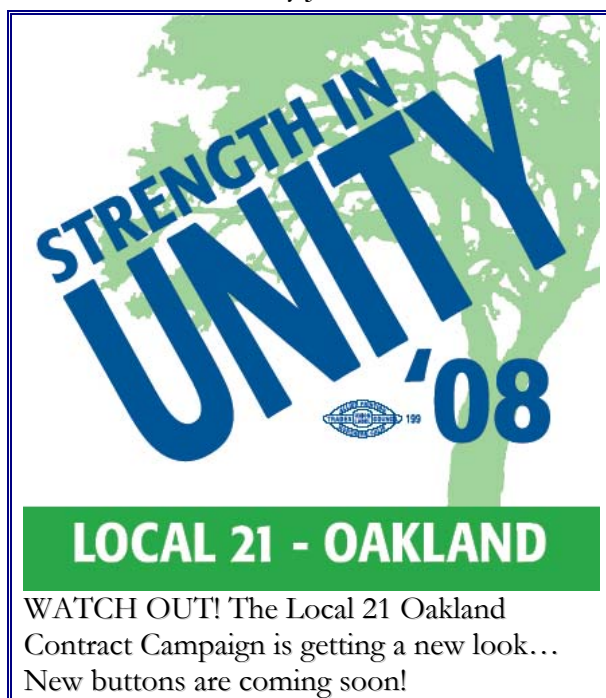
#### **Local 21 Meets with Mayor Dellums**

On May 15<sup>th</sup>, several members of Local 21's bargaining team met with Mayor Dellums to discuss the status of Local 21's negotiations. The Mayor stressed his support for Labor and desire for labor peace in the City, and noted that even when negotiators disagree there needs to be respect and dignity shown on both sides of the table. He listened carefully to our concerns and requested time to investigate the issues raised more carefully. We continue to look forward to any action taken on the part of the Mayor.

#### **Local 21 Presses Contract Extension Issue**

On June 2<sup>nd</sup>, Local 21's Executive Director Bob Muscat and a few members of the union bargaining team met with City Administrator Deborah Edgerly and Assistant City Administrator Cheryl Thompson to discuss issues related to contract negotiations. The City Administrators seemed surprised that a contract extension was even an issue. While formal agreements cannot be made outside of the bargaining table, they verbally agreed that past practice has always been to honor our contracts after the expiration date until a final agreement

is reached. Local 21 looks forward to reaching a formal written agreement on this provision, and is awaiting a response from the City's negotiators at the next bargaining session, which is scheduled for Monday June 9<sup>th</sup>.



#### **L21 Members Shed Light on Reality of Oakland Budget**

As the end of the fiscal year approaches, Oakland's City Council has been convening to address mid-cycle revisions to the City's budget in light of a projected deficit. Close to 50 Local 21 members were in attendance when Local 21's Oakland Vice President Jeff Levin addressed the City Council at a special budget hearing on May 15th. Levin reminded the Council of the integral work Local 21 members perform to implement

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the programs and policies that make Oakland run. He also reminded them of how Local 21 members stepped forward in 2003-05 to work out a deal with the City for a temporary increase in payroll deductions for retirement in order to mitigate the impact of budget shortfalls on the City and on Local 21 members. Levin stressed that, particularly in light of the City's failure to require equivalent contributions from all employee groups in 2003-05, Local 21 members will not support any budget solutions that are inequitably adopted across the City's employee organizations. He also added that Local 21 is looking forward to bargaining in good faith with the City to find solutions to the budget problem that have minimal impact on employees and the integral community services they provide.

On May 23<sup>rd</sup>, the City of Oakland Administrator's and Mayor's draft budget was released to the public. The budget called for all “non-essential services” to be shut down one day per month throughout FY 08-09, resulting in 12 days of unpaid leave for our members. On May 29<sup>th</sup>, Local 21 made a public statement at the Oakland City Council's budget hearing that summarized the proposed budget as one that includes a 4% pay increase to the Police, while providing service cutbacks for the public and pay cuts for our members. They also urged the Council to look at other avenues of costs-savings such as temporary employees, professional services contracts, and existing reserve balances which are in excess of the generous amount required by Council policy. Levin was featured on the KTVU 2 news stating, "We're opposed to [furloughs]. It amounts to cutbacks in service for the people of Oakland. We don't believe in part-time government." Local 21 member Holly Pearson was also interviewed by the news station, and

put the budget cuts in real-life terms when she noted that the proposed pay cut would be equal to her monthly student loan payment.

### Save-The-Date! June 11<sup>th</sup> Budget Hearing & Signature Campaign, 5pm at City Hall

#### Council Chambers

The next critical City of Oakland budget hearing is scheduled for Wednesday June 11<sup>th</sup>, 5pm @ City Hall Council Chambers! Two years ago, the City



declined saving \$14m of surplus funds. Today, they want to decrease our pay for costs the City can already afford! We need to tell the Council that pay cuts in any form are unacceptable! Wear you Local 21 UNITY shirt, or get one at the door!

Local 21 plans to present a petition to the City Council at the June 11<sup>th</sup> Hearing, demanding a single negotiating table and a written guarantee of a contract extension until a new MOU has been agreed upon and ratified. While Local 21's CAT Team has gathered a lot of signatures in a short period of time, we still don't have everyone! If you have not yet signed the petition, please contact your CAT representative or Chapter officers. We need members present at the hearing to make the Council hear our voices!