



Alameda Labor Council AFL-CIO

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May 18, 2009

Hon. Ronald V. Dellums, Mayor
Hon. Jane Brunner, Council President
Mr. Dan Lindheim, City Administrator
City of Oakland
1 Frank Ogawa Plaza
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mayor Dellums, Council President Brunner and Mr. Lindheim:

I am disappointed to hear bargaining committee reports that the City of Oakland is threatening our unions with last, best and final offers and a declaration of impasse.

Our unions have participated in a challenging and ever-changing negotiations process since early 2008. They have come to the table in good faith, met with elected representatives, and established a ground-breaking Budget Working Group that provided tangible (some would say fungible) results.

In context, no major Bay Area city has unilaterally imposed contract terms on employees in modern times. I would be hard-pressed to explain this action to our members, given the relationship that we have been working to build with city leadership.

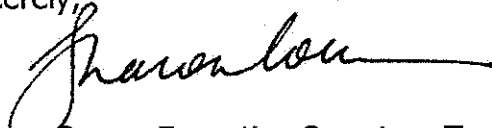
Our unions have demonstrated a strong commitment to helping the City overcome fiscal challenges. They have invested substantial resources in alternative budgeting to help the City meet its financial needs.

Our members understand that hard times call for shared sacrifice from everyone. However, the City's demands for open-ended wage concessions and its insistence on contract reopeners go far beyond reasonable bargaining positions. Despite the unions' demonstrated willingness to make difficult and painful sacrifices, your negotiator implies that the City is unwilling to negotiate unless the unions simply acquiesce to the City's demands.

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Last year, important steps were taken to improve the climate at the bargaining table. It was represented to me that the City intended to bargain in good faith and settle fairly. Our unions have done more than their share to assist the City. Please direct your negotiating team to drop the threats, bargain in good faith, and settle constructively.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sharon Cornu". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Sharon Cornu, Executive Secretary-Treasurer