Brave Local 21 members came together with SEIU 1021 and Refund Oakland on June 10 speak in front of City Council in support of a budget that invests in city services.

Hundreds of people packed the City Council meeting. Our members spoke candidly about the severe understaffing crisis that the City Administration’s budget will perpetuate. They shared moving stories of coworkers falling ill from working too many 16 hours work days.

The community is on our side; 117 people who signed up to speak on the budget, and almost all spoke in favor of a People’s Budget that invests in city services.

On our June 12 bargaining session, the Local 21 Bargaining Team continued our efforts to reach a fair agreement with the City. We made several counter proposals.

Yet merely hours after we made our proposals, the City Negotiator gave us a letter claiming that bargaining is at an impasse. The City says that they have no more movement to make on wages beyond 2% each year.

We believe that the City’s declaration of impasse is premature and have proposed additional bargaining dates.

They are employing scare tactics like layoff notices and declaring premature impasse because they are threatened by our collective power. It means what we’re doing is working. We must continue advocating for a fair budget that transparently invests in our communities and public services.