

Huntington Park Workers Hold City to Its Word: “A Deal’s a Deal!”

A FSCME Local 1769 (Huntington Park City employees) recently saw a bizarre twist to the culmination of their contract negotiations.

It all started when the Local presented its membership with a new MOU that the City had agreed upon – including robust raises of 12 percent over 3 years, other improvements, plus a “One City” (also called “Me Too”) clause that might provide additional raises in certain circumstances.

The Local members voted to ratify the MOU with overwhelming support.

But suddenly, the City Manager reneged – pulling the “One City” item and forwarding an inferior



MOU to the City Council for approval, which they did.

This breach of bargaining protocols constituted a clear unfair labor practice, not to mention audacious arrogance on the part of the City Manager.

Threatening a lawsuit, launching letter-writing/petition/calling campaigns, and notifying the press, **Local 1769 President Mario Rivas** and other Local leaders, members and supporters finally

packed a City Council meeting in mid-January. They demanded the City stand by their MOU.

The combined pressure tactics worked.

The Local was so effective, in fact, that the workers not only regained the stricken “One City” item, but managed to win an additional \$400 uniform allowance that had not been on the agreement beforehand!

OC Social Service Workers Win Guarantee: Temps Will NOT Do Their Jobs

When the **Orange County Social Service Agency** threatened **Eligibility Workers in Local 2076** with outsourcing plans to hire temporary “customer service” representatives, **Local 2076 President Raymond Hartwell and other Union leaders** delivered a clear message back: “No way!”

The County threats come amid a longstanding Eligibility Worker staffing shortage and overwhelming caseloads. The staffing crisis has meant that recipients of food stamps, “Covered California” benefits, and other critical social services are not getting the help they need, when they need it.



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OC Social Service Workers Win Guarantee

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But Management's latest "solution" to the problems was unacceptable, said Hartwell.

"Rather than hire permanent, qualified County workers, they tried to hire lower-wage, unqualified temps to answer phones and forward messages. We were not going to let that happen."

According to the County's own data, Eligibility Worker staffing has been at just 55 percent of mandated levels. Bilingual workers serving immigrant residents has

been in even shorter supply.

In December alone, the County Call Center received over 66,000 calls from people needing help – but there were fewer than 200 workers assigned to serve them.

"We have the unique skills, training and experience to solve the callers' problems and ensure they are getting the assistance that they need," Hartwell said.

In response to the Local's push-back, the County has responded

favorably – so far.

Management has now placed a hold on its temporary hiring proposal and even more significantly, guaranteed for the first time ever that temporary workers would not be hired to do the jobs of Local 2076 members, under specified terms of an agreement both parties reached.

San Diego City Workers Make Strides With Mayor to Protect Jobs and Services

It's not every day that a dyed-in-the-wool, public sector labor activist and a Republican Mayor can share a light moment together, let alone work closely to improve City services and working conditions of City employees.

But in San Diego, that is exactly the case.

When **President of AFSCME Local 127 (City of San Diego Employees) Frank Pitarro** was invited personally by **San Diego Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer** to attend the mayor's State of the City Address on January 14 (see photo of Faulconer and Pitarro, at right), it reflected a deeper mutual respect the two men have forged since Faulconer was elected in 2014.

"I applaud the mayor for recognizing the serious pitfalls of 'Managed Competition' – which is just a fancy term for outsourcing good government jobs," Pitarro said. "To his credit, Faulconer gets that there

are real costs to privatization."

Faulconer, unlike a line of mayors before him in conservative San Diego, has been willing to protect civil service jobs and retain union members to provide services such as repair potholes, collect trash, and complete infrastructure projects.

Pitarro should know. He has battled against the City's relentless attacks on its workforce for years.

That does not mean all is hunky dory, though. Local 127 is actively working to protect its members at the bargaining table, in court, and in the street – such as over the hot-button issue of retirement security.

"The Mayor and City Council are supporting sham 'pension reforms' and defending Prop. B even now," Pitarro noted of a local measure that AFSCME and other unions have successfully challenged in



court. Based on the unions' lawsuit, the state Public Employment Relations Board in early January handed workers a major victory and ruled that the City of San Diego violated state law by not negotiating over the 2012 ballot measure.

The measure, which was financially backed by the City's political leaders, seeks to eliminate guaranteed pension benefits for all City employees except police officers, in an attempted end-run around collective bargaining laws. But the City Attorney — with Mayor Faulconer's support — is now appealing the PERB ruling.