



August 19, 2025

Dear AFSCME member,

We're excited to announce that our unions have started the process of unifying with AFSCME New York Council 66. Under this proposal, we will join forces with thousands of other AFSCME members in Buffalo and across Upstate New York. This will increase our ability to win better pay, benefits and working conditions.

It's no secret that public service workers like us are facing serious challenges at the federal, state and local levels. The people of Buffalo rely on us to provide essential services that keep this city running, and we're proud of the work we do for our neighbors. Coming together with our fellow AFSCME members in Council 66 will give us a stronger voice in our workplaces and in our community.

Our local unions—made up of more than 1,400 dedicated public service workers in Buffalo—are currently part of AFSCME District Council 35. As elected leaders, it is our belief that Council 35 does not have the capacity to serve our membership in its current form. That's why the Council 35 Executive Board overwhelmingly voted to unify with Council 66 in the best interests of our members.

We know that by unifying with Council 66, our local unions will have more power to represent, mobilize and bargain for all of our members. As members of Council 66, we will have access to more resources and professional staff. This is a unique opportunity that will mean more engagement, accountability and support for AFSCME members right here in Buffalo. A copy of the unification proposal is on the back of this letter for your review.

You and your fellow members will get the final say on this proposal during a full membership vote. We look forward to meeting with you and your coworkers at job sites around the city starting on September 2nd to hear your thoughts about how we can continue to empower our local unions. In the meantime, we invite you to share your questions and concerns with us.

Thank you for your dedication to building a stronger union.

In Solidarity,

Bill Orr, Jr.
President, AFSCME Local 264
orrb264@gmail.com

Tracy Healy
President, AFSCME Local 650
buffalony650@gmail.com

Keith Ogden
President, AFSCME Local 2651
ogden.keith88@gmail.com

DISTRICT COUNCIL 35 RESOLUTION

WHEREAS:

AFSCME District Council 35 was chartered for City of Buffalo employees on May 16, 1975, and represents nearly 1,500 members who work and live in the City of Buffalo;

WHEREAS:

The members of AFSCME District Council 35 wish to remain united for the purposes of representing our interests through aggressive collective bargaining, member representation, and improving the safety and working conditions of our members;

WHEREAS:

Our members recognize that there is strength in numbers and that our members are facing unprecedented attacks – at the bargaining table by management, and in the legislature, both at the national and local levels, by those who want to cut the funding our jobs depend on;

WHEREAS:

AFSCME District Council 35 members wish to maintain a high level of service, and AFSCME Council 66 has experienced attorneys, labor relations specialists, communications, accounting and administrative staff who can provide aggressive representation and member servicing, financial accountability, administrative support, communications and member engagement;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

The AFSCME District Council 35 President, with assistance from the Executive Board, is directed and authorized to enter into an agreement with AFSCME International and AFSCME Council 66 to unify District Council 35 with Council 66 provided that: the AFSCME Council 66 Constitution shall be amended to provide for representation for members of City of Buffalo Locals 264, 650 and 2651; Council 66 shall hold conferences and trainings to promote the interests and to support the welfare of City of Buffalo members.