



Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES: June 17, 2013

Meeting called to order at 4:22pm by President Jos Williams

President Williams introduced some of the Council's hosts at Kaiser -- Dr. Ted Eaton, Leonard Phillips, Alex Thompson, Dave Russell, Keith Montgomery -- commending them for their great relationship with labor. They participate actively in the Bowling Tournament, the Golf Tournament, and more.

Keith Montgomery welcomed the board to the Center for Health and gave an overview of the services they offer and showed a short film about the strong relationship between Kaiser and their unions.

Minutes (May) moved and seconded to accept. Approved.

Financial Report (May) moved and seconded to receive. Approved.

President Williams added that the financial documents would be reviewed in detail (per a request last meeting) at the September meeting.

Correspondence: it was moved, seconded and approved to make the following expenditures: MontCo NAACP 5-May Freedom Fund Dinner \$200 (2 tickets); CLUW DC 30-Jun Gloria Johnson Luncheon \$175 (1/2 page ad); Sheet Metal 100 20-September Golf Tourney \$250.00 (tee); totaling \$625.

Community Services Agency

Executive Director Kathleen McKirchy reminded board members that tickets are still available for Labor Night at the Nat's (7/19), and that the golf tournament is right around the corner. Both are fundraisers for the Emergency Assistance Fund. McKirchy announced the graduation of 15 students from the Building Futures program and the successful new hospitality program in Prince George's County.

Union Cities

Chris Garlock (Union Cities Coordinator) and Julia Kann (Assistant Mobilizer) told the board about the

following campaigns and urged them to stay for the Delegates Meeting where guests would be coming from the various unions and community groups: Unite Here 23 fight for a fair contract at Nationals Stadium, local taxi driver organizing in DC/PG/MC, low-wage DC workers strike, and worker struggle at Alta Bicycle Share update. Garlock reminded board members about the upcoming Great Labor Arts Exchange and opportunities to take out ads for the DC Labor FilmFest. He also reminded board members about the monthly local communicators meetings, and President Williams strongly urged Board Members to send someone to the meetings. Kann asked board members to check out the website for more information on upcoming events.

President Williams shared a resolution in support of the Good Jobs Nation campaign, adding a resolve that the resolution be shared with the AFL-CIO, since it is on a national-level issue. **Moved and seconded to adopt the resolution. Approved.**

Attendance

Present: Fred Allen (GCC 538-C), Dena Briscoe (APWU, Nation's Capital and Southern MD), Carl Goldman (AFSCME Council 26), Carnell Reed (SEIU 400 PG), Doris Reed (ASASP), Jos Williams (AFSCME 2477), Eric Bunn (AFGE Dist 14), Anthony Frederick (Laborers 657), Michael Murphy (IUOE 99), Thomas Ratliff (Teamsters 639), Steve Courtien for Vance Ayres (WBCTC), Phillip Williams for Nathan Saunders (WTU 6), Wendy Weiner for Tony Perez (UFCW 400).

Excused: Sandra Falwell (DCNA/NUU), Linda Bridges (OPEIU 2), Jackie Jeter (ATU 689), Kendall Martin (Ironworkers Local 5), Tony Perez (UFCW 400), Gino Renne (UFCW 1994 MCGEO), Nathan Saunders (WTU 6), Jimmy Tarlau (CWA District 2-13), John Boardman (UNITE HERE 25),

Absent: Dan Dyer (OPEIU 2), Riley Gaines (IBEW 26), Geo Johnson (AFSCME Council 20)

Staff: Chris Garlock, Julia Kann, Kathleen McKirchy, Rick Powell, Alya Solomon

Guests: Gerald Warrick (Laborers 657); Scott Clark (IBT 639); Rick Malachi (SEIU 722); Sam Epps (Unite Here 25); Len Phillips, Alex Thompson, Dave Russell, Keith Montgomery (Kaiser Permanente)



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President Williams announced that Kann will be leaving the Council at the end of the month and thanked her for her service to the Council.

COPE Report

DC COPE Report

President Williams asked board members to read the descriptions (*copied below**) for a full update on DC COPE action, and then deferred to DC COPE Chair Fred Allen, who reviewed the Large Retailer Accountability Act (LRAA). Allen said there have been developments that question the number of votes in favor of the bill. Alya Solomon (Asst. Legislation/Political Coordinator) reported on the changes to the bill (getting rid of the square-foot requirement) and the possibility of a round-table discussion between the first and second readings. The coalition has taken a position that it will not oppose the insertion of the 75,000 square-foot provision back into the bill. The official position is to pass the bill out of the Committee of the Whole.

Allen also brought a proposal from DC COPE calling on the Council to send a letter to the Mayor of DC requesting that he drop the lawsuit against DOL that indicated the CityCenterDC project is a Davis Bacon project. Discussion ensued on the national ramifications of this letter. **Moved and seconded to approve the proposal. Approved.**

Discussion ensued on how public and private sector unions can best work together on issues like this one moving forward.

Tommy Ratliff (IBT 639) brought up the issue of members being thrown into "IMPACT," the new evaluation system used by DCPS, and how they are ignoring CBAs when removing staff. Board members discussed how to combat this issue. President Williams proposed that the Council send a letter to the Mayor explaining labor's stance against "IMPACT" and calling on the Mayor to follow collectively bargained contracts. **Moved and seconded to approve. Approved.** President Williams committed to discussing the matter further with the principal unions affected and called on Doris Reed (ASASP) to support this effort.

President Williams updated the board on disagree-

ments regarding the Patient Protection Act. A small committee was formed, but they have not been able to meet as they did not receive SEIU 722's proposed amendments until Friday. An agreement has not yet been reached, so Williams is requesting that the committee continue their work in an effort to find common ground prior to a public hearing. **Moved and seconded to extend the life of the committee and allow for a meeting between NNU and SEIU 722. Approved.**

*Updates from DC COPE:

- FY 2014 Budget Request Act of 2013 – Fire Fighter's Overtime: *In the fine print of the FY 2014 Budget Request Act, Mayor Gray has asked Congress to wipe away a \$36 million debt owed by the city in back-pay to the fire fighters for an overtime case dating back to 2007. Because this would set a negative precedent for future cases, we have asked the City Council to remove the language from the Budget Request Act. The City Council unanimously voted to do so during its first budget vote on May 22. It is expected to come up for a final vote on June 18.*
- District of Columbia Primary Date Alteration Amendment Act of 2013: *This bill – introduced by Mendelson, Evans, Wells, McDuffie and Bonds – proposes to alter the date of DC Primary elections for President, City Council and House of Representatives from the first Tuesday in April to the second Tuesday in June. The bill was referred to the Committee on Government Operations and a hearing was held on May 29th. The bill is expected to pass before the summer recess and the law is expected to take effect by the 2014 Primary.*
- Large Retailer Accountability Act of 2013: *This bill – introduced by Chairman Mendelson and co-sponsored by Bonds, Orange, Catania, Alexander, Cheh, Evans, Graham, Bowser, Wells, Barry and Grosso – is intended to require large retailers (over 75,000 square feet, whose parent company grosses a billion dollars annually) to pay their employees a living wage. The bill was referred to the Committee on Business, Consumer and Regulatory Affairs, chaired by CM Orange. The committee held a hearing on March 20th and the bill was marked-up and passed the committee on May 31st. However, the committee voted to remove the square footage requirement. This bill will now target businesses such as Apple, Banana Republic and others because they earn a billion dollars a year. After discussions with CM Orange, he believes*



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he has secured the 7 votes needed for the passage of the bill without the square footage requirement. 9 votes are needed to make it veto-proof. The bill is expected to come before the full Council for a first vote before the summer recess.

Recommendations from the DC COPE (Fred Allen):
CityCenterDC Project: DC COPE has made a recommendation to the Executive Board to send a letter to Mayor Gray requesting that he drop the lawsuit on the CityCenterDC project.

MD COPE Reports:

MD COPE Chair Doris Reed (ASASP) asked board members to read the full report (*copied below**) for a full update. She added that Democratic Committee chairs from Montgomery County and Prince George's County attended the last COPE meeting and discussed what they had — and had not — done for labor. There was lively discussion of the MCDCC picket and "maintenance of effort" laws.

Williams added that he received a letter from the Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee chair asking for a meeting. He responded that labor is open to a meeting and is awaiting a response with date suggestions.

Reed asked if Williams received a letter from Maryland Senator Joanne Benson, which he did. Williams reported that he was copied on a letter sent to AFSCME 2250 from Benson. In the letter, Benson, who has been a strong labor supporter, says she was invited to and attended an AFSCME 2250 meeting, where she was "verbally attacked and abused" and was "afraid for her physical safety." She is calling for an apology, or else it will be taken up with the president of the Senate and other officials. She added that it causes her to wonder at how labor supports its friends. Williams is concerned about the repercussions of this sort of action. President Williams asked the board permission to take this issue up with AFSCME 2250, and higher-up people at AFSCME if necessary. **Moved and seconded to approve this action. Approved.**

*Updates from MD COPE:

- Scorecard committee update: *The Scorecard committee is making progress. We have identified 33 State Senate and House Bills to score. The committee will be working on those bills over the summer.*
- 2014 Election Mapping update: *The committee is*

working on the budget for the 1st tier campaigns we plan to work on in 2014 to be presented to the Executive Board at the September meeting.

Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee boycott update: what's next?: *A progressive coalition made up of unions, political allies, and community partners has been formed around general principles that include bringing transparency and working family values back to the Democratic Party in Montgomery and Prince George's counties. A committee has been formed to plan and conduct a Progressive Leadership Summit this fall. Further details will be provided as the work on the Summit continues.*

President's Report

President Williams reported on the ongoing ATU 689 Public Transit campaign, thanking WTU, APWU (Nation's Capital and Southern MD), AFGE 12, Unite Here 23, and DCNA for bringing representatives of the campaign to their local meetings.

Moved and seconded to not hold Executive Board or Delegate Meetings for the months of July and August. Approved.

President Williams introduced Karen Andre, new labor liaison to DC Mayor Vincent Gray, who is entering her third week on the job. Andre shared how she came to do this work and her passion for social justice. Andre is an attorney and worked for SEIU in Florida before coming to DC. Andre plans to hold meetings regarding legislative issues, overall policy issues, and contracts. Andre hopes to work with Williams to make sure she is talking to the right people. Board members offered suggestions on how to form a strong working relationship with Andre and the Mayor. Andre can be contacted directly at karen.andre@dc.gov or 202-340-7038.

Moved and seconded to adjourn at 6:25pm. Approved.

ACTION ITEMS

- Financial documents to be reviewed in detail at the September meeting
- Send letter on CityCenterDC to Mayor
- Send letter on problems with IMPACT and need to follow CBA to Mayor
- Meeting with Eric Bunn on how to get public-sector unions more plugged into action of private sector unions
- Meeting with school unions, with support from Doris Reed
- Discussing "IMPACT" performance evaluation system with the principals along with support from Doris Reed