

**Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO
Executive Board: June 15, 2020**



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**Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO
Executive Board Meeting Agenda
June 15, 2020 (via Zoom)**

- 2p: Call to Order**
 - Roll Call of Officers**
 - Minutes**
 - Financial Reports**
 - President's Report**
 - Election Committee Report**
 - Board Member Reports**
 - Committee Reports**
 - Organizational Reports:**
 - Community Services Agency*
 - COPE/Political and Legislative Campaigns*
 - Claimant Advocacy Program*
 - Union Cities*
- 4:30P: Adjourn**

Metropolitan Washington Council Executive Board Meeting May 18, 2020 (Via Zoom)

- Roll call of Officers and Executive Members
- Call to order
- Juanita Sanchez (AFL–CIO) reviewed the Code of Conduct mandated by the AFL – CIO concerning participants’ behavior during meetings. Chris Garlock will be the contact for the Council and Gina Walton will be the contact for the election committee .
- Motion made by Jim Griffin (IBEW 1900) to accept April Executive Board minutes seconded by George Farenthold (OPEIU 277).
- Financial report was given by Treasurer Eric Bunn (AFGE), who stated that Labor Key (the new per capita billing system) is not coordinating with Quick Books. Example the invoices are not correct. Mr. Bunn recommended not to approve the Financial report for May until it can be corrected. Motion was made by George Farenthold (OPEIU 277) and seconded by Dan Fields (SEIU 722) to table. It was also reported that Jo Combs and Eric Bunn will be taking training on Labor Key as well as the MWC’s auditor.
- Election Committee member Larry Greenhill resigned from the Committee and Chuck Clay (IATSE 22) was appointed. Chuck Clay accepted the position.
- Acting President Andrew Washington discussed the fact that unemployment payments are behind. CSA can help members in need during the pandemic. He also reported no major issues for the Metro Council. Former DC Councilwoman La Ruby May was invited to discuss issues at a future meeting. Reopening DC committee recommendations. Chuck Clay was selected to the labor focus group. Motion made by Chuck Clay (IATSE 22) to accept the President’s report, seconded by George Farenthold (OPEIU 277). Robin Burns (DCNA) abstained.
- Jaime Contreras (SEIU 32BJ) discussed Metro Council staff contract negotiations with the Guild about health care. Andrew Washington discussed the health care exchange providers using accurate quotes. Eric Bunn discussed the health care extension for staff. Contract negotiations date back to expiration of the previous contract at the end of 2018. The Guild has also raised the issues of David Stephen’ 90-day pay increase after his probationary period.
- Discussion about the cost of Election Buddy going the allotted time for the election. Candidates will have 3 minutes to speak to the Delegates. Eric Bunn requested a print-out of the locals in arrears.
- June 10th Swearing-in of new Delegates to Metro Council. No one’s voting strength will be reduced. Per capita payments will reflect April 2019 to April 2020, per the constitution. Wanda Shelton-Martin discussed that the wrong name was used for NUHHCE 1199 and the per capita was incorrect. Jim Griffin said that IBEW 1900’s per capita payments were incorrect as well and asked if it would affect their voting strength. The original cost of Election Buddy was \$1,398.00 but to cover additional prep work the board increased the

cost allowance to \$2,500.00. Motion made by Andrew Washington to approve the increase, seconded and approved by the committee as a whole.

- Community Service Agency raised \$15, 000 to assist members during the COVID 19 pandemic. Please send your requests to CSA.
- Affiliate Reports
- Chuck Clay IATSE 22
- Jim Griffin (IBEW 1900): There are three power plants in Maryland; one has closed and the workers are upper middle- aged worker with specialized jobs skills in the coal industry.
- DCNA added nurses to the unit. DC Mayor to build new hospital with no urgent care units in the the facility.
- 1199 SEIU asked that we call Congress to ask for Hazardous pay for Healthcare workers.
- Labor Nite with the Nationals is canceled; the Golf Tournament is also canceled.
- Building Futures program is a multi task program.
- Moved, seconded and approved to accept committee reports.
- David Stephens COPE report: DC City Council primary race endorsements: Robert White, Trayvon White, Jordan Grossman, Janeese Lewis George and Anthony Lorenzo were endorsed by Metro Council. Prince George's County endorse Congressman Anthony Brown. Motion made by George Farenthold, seconded by Chuck Clay to accept the COPE report.
- Union Cities: Chris Garlock said unless there were questions, he would stand on his report as submitted.
- Motion made to adjourn; George Farenthold, seconded by Chuck Clay
- Meeting adjourned.

Cynthia Collins, Recording Secretary

ELECTION COMMITTEE REPORT

David Fernandez-Barrial, Chair

Members: Chuck Clay, Amy Millar, Kathleen Moors, Gina Walton

The countdown for tonight's historic election has begun. The Zoom room will open at 5:30p tonight and will be locked down at 6:45p sharp; if you are a [current delegate](#) and have not already done so, be sure to [register here now](#).

The final delegate and voting strength lists have been posted to the MWC Election website [here](#), along with information about how the election will be conducted, including the mechanics of a Roll Call vote. Please review carefully and let us know if you have any questions (email streetheat@dclabor.org).

Tonight's delegate meeting and election will have its logistical challenges, just based on the number of delegates we are expecting to participate (over 200 have already registered). We will be reminding folks throughout the proceedings to be patient, especially during the sign-in process. The Election Committee has been working very hard and conscientiously over the past months to get all the pieces in place despite the many hurdles; please be conscious of the extraordinary logistical complexity of this event - as compared to past elections, which were uncontested and conducted in-person - and ask you to be patient, courteous, and respectful for all brothers and sisters during the meeting. This is an election and the best characteristics of our labor movement need to be on display, so that we can best attend to the business at hand.

As in last month's delegates meeting, all candidates will have the opportunity to address the delegates one last time prior to the actual voting tonight. Each candidate will have up to 3 minutes to address the delegates; the time limit will be strictly enforced.

I would also like to express my gratitude and appreciation to the Election Committee -- Chuck Clay, Amy Millar, Kathleen Moors and Gina Walton -- as well as MWC staffer Chris Garlock, for their dedication, commitment and incredibly hard work over what turned out to be a much longer period of time and much more complex process than anyone anticipated. It has truly been an honor to serve with them on this committee.

Finally, on behalf of the Election Committee, we wish all the candidates, delegates and affiliates the best of luck and solidarity as we all work together to build a stronger labor movement for all working people throughout our community.

Community Services Agency (CSA) of the Metropolitan Washington Council AFL-CIO

Sonte DuCote, Executive Director

COVID-19 RESPONSE

The Executive Director has been working to raise funds to support workers who are impacted by the COVID 19 economic crisis. CSA is deeply grateful for the union, ally, individual donor and foundation support from it has received. The following is an updated list of contributions.

AFGE District Council 14	\$3,700.00
AFL-CIO Housing Investment Trust	\$10,000.00
American Fed of Teachers Staff Union	\$2,000.00
Baltimore DC Building Trades Council	\$5,000.00
Greater Washington Community Foundation	\$70,000.00
Individual Donors	\$3,085.00
IUOE Local 99	\$1,000.00
Masonry, Stone, Marble, Tile & Terr	\$500.00
OPEIU Local 2	\$300.00
LIUNA Local 11	\$1,000.00
Plumbers Local 5	\$10,000.00
SEIU Local 722	\$2,000.00
Ullico	\$10,000.00
United Way National Capital Area	\$40,000.00
UniteHere Local 25	\$5,000.00
Total	\$163,585.00

As of June 9, 2020, \$59,529 has been allocated for rent, utility, car loan, medical bills and food. \$24,275 has been allocated for food, comprising almost half of the requests for emergency assistance. Three hundred and seventy-eight workers (378) have been served.



The executive director is working with UNITEHERE Locals 23 and 25, SEIU Local 32 BJ, AFSCME Locals 709 and 1207 and has reached out to other locals impacted by COVID-19 layoffs to get referrals for members laid off.

Affiliates with members impacted by COVID-19 layoffs should email: sducote@dclabor.org

CSA helps “lift a big burden” off worker’s shoulders

AFSCME Local 1207 member Jamie Brown (*left*) is one of 80 cleaners laid off in early May when the Washington Convention Center was reconfigured into a COVID-19 field hospital. The 32-year-old has three children, aged 2, 8 and 14. “I have been stressing in many ways trying to figure out how to come up with the money during this pandemic,” Jamie told Union City. The Metro Council’s Community Services Agency and her union helped her pay the rent, and she says “I am thankful for

the help. It lifted a big burden off of my shoulders.” Through its Emergency Assistance Fund, CSA has been able to help over 100 local workers with rent, utility, food and other basic necessities. "Broad-based support from the Metro Washington labor community, individual donors, the Greater Washington Community Foundation and the United Way National Capital Area made the funding possible to keep Jamie and her family in their home," said CSA Executive Director Sonte DuCote. "Stories like Jamie's show the real impact of these generous contributions, keeping our communities strong throughout the COVID-19 crisis," she added.

Fundraising

Unfortunately, there is a 99.9 percent chance that Labor Night at the Nats scheduled for July 24 will not happen due to COVID-19 rules regarding public gatherings.

The CSA Golf Tournament scheduled for September 21st is canceled. According to the Enterprise Golf Course Manager, Allen Loreg, tournaments are canceled for this golf season due to COVID-19.

The executive director will work with the pro bono group COMPASS to identify potential grant and program opportunities for CSA.

BUILDING FUTURES PRE-APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

During the past month, CSA's Client Services Coordinator, Sylvia Casaro-Dietert and her team completed virtual recruitment activities in preparation for the Building Futures Construction Pre-Apprenticeship Program summer cohorts. Building Futures Virtual Classroom will be launched on June 15 as a hybrid model to be complemented with in-person training later in July or when gatherings of more than 10 individuals becomes available in DC, which is where the training site is located.

Building Futures program activities and outcomes were as follows:

- Screening and enrollment of 50 DC residents to participate in the upcoming summer cohorts funded by UPO CSBG and DOES respectively. Activities: Weekly virtual recruitment events for government and community partners, daily processing of candidates' intakes and engagement activities to ensure process quality and candidate retention.
- Adaptation of AFL-CIO-approved MC3 Curriculum and BF Applications for distance learning. Activities: Content formatting, creation/ compilation of self-learning projects and daily student assignments by module.
- Google Classroom and Zoom. Activities: Research, identification and set-up of low-cost, accessible and reliable digital platforms for Building Futures Virtual Classroom.
- Ready-to-go Instructors. Activities: Coordination of BF Instructors' regarding online instruction and schedule.





- Client engagement and retention. Activities: Follow-up and support of active and newly hired graduates.
- Accountability. Activities: Preparation and submissions of monthly/ quarterly reports; regular check-ins with contracts and grant officers to stay updated and maintain open lines of communication during the pandemic.
- Marketing of Union Registered Apprenticeship. Activities: Regular check-ins with the building and construction trades union and their joint apprenticeship training committees to promote BF pre-apprenticeship, identify trade opportunities for women, veterans and minority graduates from our program, and include them as guest speakers to present their trade and registered apprenticeship programs in BF Virtual Classroom.
- Staying-in-the-know: Participation in DC City Council's Labor and Workforce Development Budget Oversight Committee.

Additional questions? Contact Sonté DuCote, Executive Director at: sducote@dclabor.org
Mobile: 202-679-2991 / Office: 202-974-8226

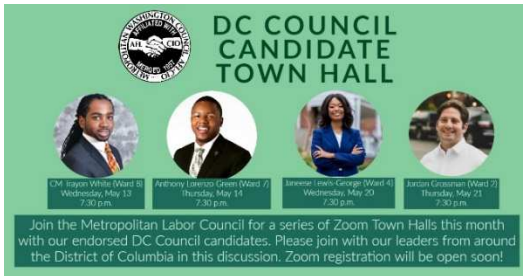
COPE/Legislative Monthly Summary for April 2020

David Stephen, Political Director

Daily: tracking legislation on the federal level, as well as for Washington DC, Maryland, and local jurisdictions and Virginia (when applicable) and updating webpage with all updates.

Daily: updating legislative update page on the website with the latest information.

Zoom Town Hall with Trayon White, Anthony



Lorenzo Green,
Janeese Lewis George and
Jordan Grossman

Distributed information on voting by mail and in person

voting for Maryland and District of Columbia via email and on website

D.C. Winning candidates endorsed by MWC:

At-Large: Robert White (W)

Ward 2: Jordan Grossman (L), Brooke Pinto (W)

Ward 4: Janeese Lewis George (W)

Ward 7: Anthony Lorenzo Green (L), Vincent Gray (W)

Ward 8: Trayon White (W)

Meetings:

Weekly calls on COVID-19 call from AFL-CIO with Pres. Trumka

Inspector Robert glover (Bowser) regarding caravan for HEROES Act

Restaurant Worker ReOpen Town Hall

Reviewed Silverman proposal with Tonya Love

WASHINGTON DC: MAYOR BOWSER LIFTING STAY-AT-HOME ORDER, D.C. TO ENTER PHASE ONE OF REOPENING FRIDAY

Washington D.C. will officially enter phase one of reopening on Friday, May 29, D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser announced during a Wednesday press conference.

Mayor Bowser says the city has sustained a 14-day decline of new COVID-19 cases, and other metrics have been met to safely begin to slowly reopen the city and lift the stay-at-home order effective Friday.



MARYLAND: VOTE BY MAIL UPDATE



In the upcoming Maryland Presidential Primary Election on June 2, 2020, residents will for races like President of the United States, Representative in Congress, Judge of the Circuit Court, Delegates to the National Convention, and local Board of Education.

CLAIMANT ADVOCACY PROGRAM

Tonya Love, Program Director; Lolita Martin, Attorney

Overall objective: Advised and represented claimants before the Office of Administrative Hearings. Discussed existing issues with DOES regarding regular UI, PUA, PUEC and FPUC. Finally, the most recent and urgent objective was/is to protect and preserve the existing language of the legislation that mandates funding for Claimant Advocacy Program, (CAP), under the current terms and conditions set forth in the requisite provision of the Act.

1. Invoiced for the month of May for a total of \$50,625.00.
2. Represented and/or assisted hundreds of union and non-union members at unemployment compensation hearings, mediations sessions, initial claims, re-opening claims, and status updates. CAP further assisted claimants in accessing the unemployment system by not only initialing multiple calls, emails and texts to POCs at DOES but following up until each claimant's issue was resolved.
3. Took part in multiple conference calls with legal service providers and CM Silverman's staff regarding a proposed amendment intended to be included in the BSA and one that would have modified the existing CAP legislation. MWC, inclusive of the Program Director of CAP, Tonya Love, met with the CM's staff in order to gain a full understanding of the intent and effect of the proposed amendment. Following the meeting, all provisions that MWC perceived as having a negative impact on CAP were removed. Furthermore, over the course of subsequent conversations with Silverman's office, this amendment was further revised, still leaving intact CAP's funding and shifting focus to DOES modernization initiatives. CM Silverman and legal service providers will continue to work together to try to resolve issues that became blatantly apparent following the increased number of unemployment claims as a result of COVID19.
4. Began discussions with DOES regarding COVID19 and how the transition to fully reopening DC could impact employees (currently claiming UI) that are concerned about returning to work.
5. Monthly DOES conference call with recommendations for procedural changes and expediting decisions/payment of benefits.

UNION CITIES

Chris Garlock, Coordinator

As I have since the beginning of the COVID-19 emergency shutdown three months ago on March 13, I have continued to work closely with Acting President Washington and the MWC staff to coordinate the remote operation of the Metro Washington Council and ensure continuity of the Metro Council's ability to carry out our responsibilities to our affiliates and the local labor movement.

In addition to my usual day-to-day duties, a major focus of my work over

the last month has been supporting the Election Committee's work preparing for the June 15 election of a new president and two board members. That has involved numerous meetings with the committee as well as with the staff of both ElectionBuddy and LaborKey. It's also involved extensive and detailed efforts to conduct outreach to MWC affiliates, leaders and delegates to update their information and membership. With nearly 200 affiliated locals and



over 400 delegates, this has been a massive undertaking under obviously unusual circumstances.



Another major component of my work continues to be maintenance and support for the MWC professional Zoom account, facilitating remote meetings for MWC staff, the Board, Election Committee, the LaborFest virtual screenings and COPE Town Halls.

Several mobilization efforts were undertaken over the last month, one

around the Workers First Caravan, originally scheduled for June 3 and now set for this Wednesday, June 17, the other around helping coordinate labor response/involvement with the ongoing Black Lives Matters protests. Work on both continues.

Here are highlights of my other work:

Union City, Union City Radio, MWC social media

Produced, published and distributed latest local labor news on the MWC's Union City daily, Union City Radio (WPFW 89.3FM) and Facebook/Twitter feeds, including extensive coverage of the COVID-19 pandemic and the efforts of DC-area unions and workers.

Union City has continued to appear every weekday since March 16; Union City Radio (WPFW 89.3FM) continues to run 7 days a week (formerly was on weekdays only); Your Rights At Work has broadcast every Thursday as usual.

I have continued working with all MWC staff to keep the labor community informed about news and resources on the local response to the pandemic, including keeping our website and social media – including [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) -- up-to-date, with the [website](#) – including the COPE, [CAP](#) and [CSA](#) pages – updated as necessary.

MWC meetings: Coordinated with AP Washington and the Board to hold the May Board meeting on May 18 and the delegate meeting on May 19, including preparing reports, notifying affiliates/delegates, etc. Both meetings were well-attended and the tech issues from previous meetings were resolved.

MWC check log-in: Opened, sorted, logged in MWC mail and checks.

Database updates: Updated MWC and LaborKey databases as necessary.

Your Rights At Work (WPFW 89.3FM, Thursdays from 1-2p)

May guests included:

LOLITA MARTIN, Staff Attorney, Claimant Advocacy Program: Updates on filing for Unemployment Insurance in DC; NALISHA MEHTA; meditation and relaxation during the pandemic; FRANK STRICKER; Author, "American Unemployment Past, Present, and Future"; SETH COOK; Principal tubist for the Washington National Opera and Kennedy Center Opera House Orchestra, member of the DC Musicians Union and a co-owner of the Takoma Beverage Company; REBECCA DIXON, Executive Director, National Employment Law Project, on how big biz is using coronavirus as an excuse to get permanent protection from all worker lawsuits; LYNN BERNABEI, lawyer, Bernabei & Kabat, on MedStar employee fired for tweeting about hospital's lack of coronavirus safety precautions; DAMON SILVERS, Director of policy and special counsel for the AFL-CIO: AFL-CIO sues feds over coronavirus workplace safety; TEFERE GEBRE, Executive Vice President of the AFL-CIO, on the June 3 Workers First Caravan; JONATHAN WILLIAMS, Communications Director, UFCW 400, on his union's calls on Giant to extend "recognition pay" until the COVID-19 crisis is over; ELIZABETH FALCON, Executive Director, DC Jobs with Justice, on tomorrow's DC Excluded Workers Social Media Blitz.

Union City MAY 2020 highlights.

LaborFest: The weekly online screening series has continued on Tuesday nights at 7p via Zoom. **UPCOMING SCREENING:** "[13th](#)"; combining archival footage with testimony from activists and scholars, director Ava DuVernay's examination of the U.S. prison system looks at how the country's history of racial inequality drives the high rate of incarceration in America.