

Delegate Meeting Minutes

DRAFT

Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO

October 18, 2010

Meeting called to order at 6:39P

Minutes: September minutes received as distributed

Financial Report: President Williams requested deferral to November meeting, due to report not being ready. It was moved, seconded and approved to defer the report.

Correspondence: DC Vote Champions of Democracy dinner: \$500 approved; Painters District 51 Children's Hope fundraiser: \$100 approved.

Special Resolution: A resolution on DC Tax Reform was presented to the body (see page 3). DC Fiscal Policy Institute Director Ed Lazere addressed the delegates on the need to have a balanced approach to the city's budget and that the city's residents cannot survive if the City Council continues to cut services and city workers. Lazere implored delegates to endorse the resolution and "join us in saying that we would rather have a tax increase than service cuts." Dave Richardson (AFGE Local 12) proposed an amendment to incorporate language that states: "... Including through income tax on those with an annual income greater than \$250,000." The amendment was struck down 6-5: President Williams noted that the amendment was an admirable idea, but should be held to be included at a

later date (we need flexibility to negotiate during the process and this idea could surface then)

Community Services

Agency: *Executive Director Kathleen McKirchy reported:*

- Golf report; the 15th annual CSA Golf Tournament was cancelled after being rained out twice. Enterprise Golf Course gave us rain checks and still wound up making about \$17,000 with \$15,000 going to the CSA Emergency Assistance Fund, much of which has already been spent due to huge need.

- Bowling tournament: January 30, 2011. Registration forms coming soon; details are posted on the Metro Council's website.

- Holiday baskets: notification going out soon; food drive, gift card, discount store gift cards, adopt a family or direct contributions. Also need to identify members in dire need of assistance.

- Washington Wizards want us to do Labor Night at the Wizards (applause); tickets would be \$17 plus whatever we want to tack on as a benefit for CSA; will investigate further to see possibility

- United Way/CFC: can't emphasize enough as our amount continues to dwindle each year so we really need to promote to our members. Discussion ensued on ways that affiliates can assist with this effort, including inviting CSA to address meetings etc, get the word out, etc. Look for

stories in UC that can be re-used on affiliate websites, in newsletters, print and email, etc. Look for email from President Williams on easy ways to help spread the word.

COPE: MD/DC Report:

- Employment stimulus bill: Alya Solomon, Assistant Legislative & Political Coordinator reported that the DC Chief Financial Officer (CFO), Mr. Gandhi, issued the Fiscal Impact Statement for the Employment Stimulus bill. The analysis showed that if this legislation is passed and implemented it would cost the City \$67M over the next 4 years and \$16M for FY2011. Councilmember Michael Brown, who introduced this legislation, has set up a meeting with Mr. Gandhi and labor unions to give unions an opportunity to discuss and refute his findings. With the Council Session coming to an end in December, we have between now and next the legislative session, November 2, to educate Gandhi and to get him to re-issue a modified fiscal impact statement, which includes significant cost reductions.

- Early voting: Solomon further reported that early voting in the District begins today, October 18, 2010 through to November 1, 2010 at One Judiciary Square. Several satellite locations are open on the weekends throughout the City. It is rumored that people will be writing Mayor Fenty's name on the ballot. Let's not take this lightly; we

urge you take advantage of Early Voting to make sure we do not have any unexpected Election outcomes. The wait time is approximately less than 5 minutes.

- Mary Cheh GOTV: Solomon further reported that Councilmember Mary Cheh has a Republican challenger in the General and needs labor's assistance leading up to Election Day. She specifically would like folks to volunteer with her campaign on October 30, 2010 to blitz the super voters in Ward 3. The Labor Council urges you to provide members to volunteer. Discussion ensued on nascent Fenty write-in campaign and what, if anything, labor should (or can) do.

- Rick Powell, Legislative & Political Coordinator, reported on Montgomery, Prince George's, Tri-County Labor Walks and Election Day MD/DC AFL-CIO Labor Rally (10/23 8 AM, IBEW 26)

- Powell also reported good turnout in MontCo and PG walks last week; thanks especially to UFCW 400 and others who've been turning out. Painters, AFSCME, MCGEO, CWA/TNG 32035 members who work at AFL-CIO. But we need to double the turnout to cover the remaining territory; these are big counties.

- Powell reported the following endorsements in local county races: Prince George's County Council: Mary Lehman (District 1); Leslie Johnson (District 6). Tri-County: Candice Kelly (County Commission President, Charles

County), Elfreda Talbert Mathis (St. Mary's County Commission). Prince George's County Board of Education: David Murray (District 1); Mark Cook (District 2); Amber Waller (District 3); Aimee Olivio (District 4); Sharon Theodore Lewis (District 5); Carolyn Boston (District 6); Henry Armwood (District 7); Steve Morris (District 8); George Mitchell (District 9)
- Powell reported that P.G. COPE meetings will resume in November; details TBA
- Fred Allen (GCIU 538-C) proposed a motion that labor support the DC ballot initiative in favor of electing the state's Attorney General. The motion was moved, seconded and adopted.

Union Cities

In absence of Coordinator Chris Garlock (due to conflicting schedule with 2010 DC Labor FilmFest), President Williams reported:
- FilmFest update: already nearly 1,000 people have attended and we expect a sell-out crowd of 450 for tomorrow night's Closing Night screening of Fair Game with Valerie Plame and Joe Wilson (reminder that free passes are not accepted for this screening; sorry!). Lots of very positive response from attendees, as usual. Thanks to all the FilmFest sponsors, especially AIL, which has been our premiere sponsor since the very beginning.
- AFM 161-710: John Cusick (AFM 161-710) reported that Washington Ballet contract unanimously rejected last month over decision to use "canned" music at "The Nutcracker" ballet again this year. AFM 161-710 member Elaine Baughman testified about the adverse impact on musicians and the level of lost income as a result of the Washington Ballet's decision. Baughman said that this decision is "a real loss to Washington and our culture."

The local is planning an action at the Ballet headquarters soon; watch Union City for details.
- Nurses United of DC: Washington Hospital Center contract imposed last month; Nurses United-DC affiliated with National Nurses United. RN Lori Marlowe commented that the nurses are ready to picket and that management is refusing to recognize the union.
- Teamsters 639: Veolia contract approved 93-12 today; Daycon struggle continues, with 10 strikers returned to work and 30 still out. Daycon has lost all NLRB rulings but is dragging process out; next court date 11/17.
- The giant rat --as seen in the Washington Post -- is on the loose and available!

Affiliate reports:

- Brian Benson (IATSE 22) voiced displeasure about the non-union work on the October 2 One Nation Working Together rally on the National Mall.
- Ruth Castel-Branco (DC JwJ) commented on the upcoming labor history walk fundraiser hosted by Chris Garlock (Saturday, 10/23)
- Larry Greenhill (IBEW 26) reported a contract win at the Washington Convention Center
- Robert Mayfield (AFGE 2978) urged support for David Schwartzman for At-Large DC Councilmember

Meeting adjourned at 8:05PM

ATTENDANCE

Vance Ayres (Washington Building Trades WBCTC); Brian Benson (IATSE 22); Avis Buchanan (AFGE 2782); Cynthia Collins (SEIU 400 PG); Stephen Courtien (IUPAT 51); John Cusick (AFM 161-710); Sandra Falwell (DCNA); Ruben Dario Ferrufino (Laborers 657); Daniel Fields (SEIU 722); Anthony Frederick (Laborers 657); Ronald Free-land (Laborers 657); Gerald Green (SEIU 400 PG); David Hershfield (AFGE Council 1 12); Ann Hoffman (NWU/UAW 1981); Lori Marlowe (Nurses United); Yvette Martin-Gross (AFGE 631); Robert Mayfield (AFGE 2978); Elaine Newman (NCAUR); Carnell Reed (SEIU 400 PG); Victor Reyes (Laborers 657); David Richardson (AFGE); Clifton Savoy (Sheet Metal Workers 100); Saul Schniderman (AFSCME 2910); Rodney Sewell (Laborers 657); Mark Sexton (IUOE 99); Carol Walton (AFGE); Gerald Warrick (Laborers 657)

**RESOLUTION ON
DC TAX REFORM**

Whereas the District of Columbia faces a \$175 million budget shortfall for Fiscal Year 2011, that the Mayor and DC Council will need to address before the end of calendar year 2010;

Whereas the recession has resulted in falling tax collections for the District of Columbia for three years;

Whereas the revenue declines have led to steep cuts in a wide range of services, including child care, housing, libraries, parks, public safety, health care, and homeless services;

Whereas budget shortfalls have led to a reduction of nearly 3,000 positions in the District of Columbia government;

Whereas Council Chair Vincent Gray has acknowledged that services have been cut not only into the bone, but also “into the marrow” of public services;

Whereas the recession has also devastated thousands of DC residents, with unemployment reaching a 40-year high in 2010;

Whereas child poverty has increased by one-third in two years, family homeless has increased 37 percent, and more than one in 10 DC residents now lives in extreme poverty;

Whereas the decisions made to address the current budget shortfall will have a significant impact on DC residents and the men and women who work to provide public services;

Whereas further budget cuts could hurt struggling families and could hurt investments that are critical to the District of Columbia’s future, such as education, health care, and infrastructure;

And Whereas taxes paid by DC residents at most income levels are the lowest in the Washington region;

We therefore resolve that:

The Mayor and DC Council should work to preserve services that DC residents rely upon as they address the \$175 million budget shortfall. The Mayor and Council should take a balanced approach to the shortfall and keep all options on the table. Because a cuts-only approach would be devastating to DC residents, the Mayor and Council should include significant increases in revenue, through progressive tax increases that fall on those most able to pay, if that is needed to balance the budget without cutting services.