

DC-37 LOCAL 1359 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES – OCTOBER 9, 2007

PRESENT: See sign-in sheet.

A quorum was present.

President Carbone called to order the General Membership Meeting of October 9, 2007 at 6pm in the 5th floor cafeteria at Gertz Plaza.

A motion to accept the General Membership minutes of September 11, 2007 was made by Dennis Ifill and seconded by Cheryl Fraser. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion to accept the October, 2007 Treasurer's Report and July, 2007 DHCR Family Day Report was made by Charmaine Hardaway and seconded by Dennis Ifill. The motion was unanimously approved.

The local has met with the employer with respect to a successor agreement to the contract which expires on April 1, 2007. Contract update #5 has been made available to the General Membership and will appear on the local's website.

DHCR: the agency continues on their hiring plans. Deputy Commissioner Leslie Torres is trying to backfill positions as they become available.

SALARY INCREASES: October 2007 is a raise month for certain members. There are three different types of increases which will occur in October, 2007. Those who are eligible for performance advances (they have yet to reach the job rate) will receive a step raise. Members who are entitled to the grade 18 merit step above the job rate and are on the October cycle will also receive raises. Finally, members who are eligible for a longevity advance of either \$850.00 or \$1700.00 (members who are/have been 5 to 10 years at the job rate) will also receive a raise in paychecks dated October 31, 2007.

GERTZ MOVE: there was a meeting between OGS and the Gertz building management to which the agency was also invited. The ownership of Gertz Plaza failed to attend the meeting. The building's architect has updated the renovation plans to conform to OGS objections but has yet to amend the plans pursuant to DHCR's requested changes.

2007 AFSCME FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP: there are 13 scholarships available. Each scholarship is for \$2,000.00 per year for 4 years for matriculating students. To qualify the student must be a high school senior who is enrolling in a four year degree program. They must be the son or daughter of an AFSCME member or the grandson/daughter where the grandparent is the sole supporter. The deadline to apply is December 31, 2007.

On October 17, 2007 President Carbone will be meeting with DHCR General Council Garry Conner and Executive Deputy Commissioner Brian Lawlor, among others, concerning the employer's unilateral imposition of new rules under the guise of "ethics reform." These include a new residency questionnaire, new rules on outside employment, new ethics reporting requirements and a new obligation on employees to report such violations. An unfair labor practice complaint shall be filed with the Public Employees Relations Board if the employer fails to bargain on these matters and fails to obtain the union's consent to impose these new requirements.

President Carbone sent a letter to the Commissioner of the state Department of Civil Service with respect to conducting new examinations for many of our titles. DHCR has actually hired provisional employees as Rent Inspectors and it is not appropriate to have provisional employees on staff for more than nine months. President Carbone advised that exams should be immediately scheduled and held for the titles of Rent Inspector, Jr. Rent Examiner and Rent Examiner Trainee. He also requested that promotional exams be offered in the rent examiner and rent program specialist series.

FLEX CARE SPENDING ACCOUNT: the enrollment period is from September 24, 2007 through November 16, 2007. There are two parts of this account: the Health Care Spending Account and the Dependent Care Advantage Account. There is no state contribution for the 2008 year for the DCAA account.

DC-37 LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE: will be held on Saturday, October 27, 2007 in room 1 at DC-37. There are coupons in the PEP for all interested members.

HOLIDAY PARTY REPORT: tickets will be available beginning with the General Membership meeting of October 9, 2007. Guest tickets are \$35.00. Member tickets are \$25.00.

A motion to adjourn was made by Dennis Ifill and seconded by Bill Miller. The motion was unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned 6:25pm.

/s/ Charmaine Hardaway
CHARMAINE HARDAWAY
Secretary Local 1359

Approved: November 13, 2007