

DC-37 LOCAL 1359 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 11, 2007

PRESENT: See sign-in sheet.

A quorum was present.

President Carbone called to order the General Membership meeting of September 11, 2007 at 6pm in the 5th floor cafeteria at Gertz Plaza.

A motion to accept the General Membership minutes of June 12, 2007 was made by Dennis Ifill and seconded by Mushtaq Ali. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion to accept the Treasurer's Reports of July, August and September, 2007 was made by Charmaine Hardaway and seconded by Dennis Ifill. The motion was unanimously approved.

Copies of the Local's Audited Financial Report for 2006 were made available to the General Membership. No problems were reported and the Local increased its assets by approximately \$4,500.

A moment of silence was held for our sister Denise Glass and Darryl Adam's mother who both passed over the summer.

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING: we are requesting further meetings with the state. The negotiations between the state and other bargaining units have been going very slowly.

DHCR: The process of significant hiring has started. The agency has hired one inspector who is provisional, and a second is coming. We are hoping the provisional status will compel Civil Service to conduct a rent inspector's exam. In addition, four new attorneys are being hired in the Enforcement Unit and at least 7 new Rent Examiners and 1 new Rent Program Specialist will be employed.

GRADE 18 MEMBERS: those who are approaching the job rate and who have not yet received the merit increase above the job rate are reminded that they must fulfill the education/training component to be eligible for the increase. Such courses are periodically offered for free by DHCR and they are conducted on state time.

GERTZ MOVE: the sixth floor state employees have been moved to the 5th floor. However, the state may be looking to dissolve the contract with the owner for the proposed creation of renovated space on the 5th and 6th floors based upon Gertz ownership's purported failure to comply with provisions of the agreement.

DHCR FAMILY DAY REPORT: the Family Day conducted on July 27, 2007 was a success. Gertz Plaza finally won the softball game. A brief expense report follows:

TRANSPORTATION COST

Bus		\$1016.50
Park Permit	-	\$ 100.00
Bus Permit	-	<u>\$ 35.00</u>
		\$1151.50

It is noted that the Management/Confidential Employees Association contributed \$50.00 for employee transportation. CSEA, PEF & DC 37 Local 1359 agreed to share expenses equally on transportation costs.

Tickets Sales/Receipts:

40 member and child under 12	@ \$8.00	\$320.00
6 guest tickets	@ \$10.00	<u>\$ 60.00</u>
		\$ 380.00 Bus Income

The cost of the children's bouncer was \$600.00. (This was a Family Day Committee expense.)

A total of \$900.00 was authorized by the membership for the local's brunch. The breakdown is as follows:

\$863.00 (allocated) - \$752.33 (actually expended) = \$110.67 to be returned to the Treasury. (A complete accounting will be provided by the Treasurer at a future meeting.)

HOLIDAY PARTY: this year's holiday party will be held at Floral Terrace located at 250 Jericho Turnpike, Floral Park, New York. The price for tickets will be \$25.00 for members (and their first guest) and \$35.00 for other or additional guests. A motion was made by Vice President Ifill to allocate \$15,000.00 to offset the cost of the 2007 Local 1359 Holiday Party with the understanding that all ticket receipts and any money not expended will be returned to the Treasury. The motion was seconded by Charmaine Hardaway. The motion was unanimously approved.

The annual New York City African American day parade will be held on Sunday, September 16, 2007. DC-37 is meeting at 112 St. and Adam Clayton Powell Blvd at 2 pm.

DHCR has filed with the Department of State rule making changes to define what the term "unique and peculiar" in the Rent Stabilization Code actually means and whether this section of law actually applies to setting rents in Mitchell-Lama buildings after they opt out of that program. The changes, if enacted, would prohibit owners from utilizing

this section. Hearings will be held on September 24, 2007, at 22 Reade St. on the first floor between 10am and 2pm.

There will be a Keyboard Specialist exam on November 17, 2007 with a deadline to apply of October 15 2007. All agency contract temp workers should be encouraged to take this exam.

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.

2008 FLEX SPENDING ACCOUNT: to enroll for 2008 members may apply beginning September 24, 2007. The enrollment period concludes on November 16, 2007. The Health Care Spending Account permits contributions from \$100.00 to \$4,000.00 annually; and, you can contribute up to \$5,000.00 annually for the Dependent Care Advantage Account. Both are “use it or lose it” type accounts. As of yet there is no corresponding state contribution for the DCAA for 2008 as no state bargaining unit has yet negotiated a new collective bargaining agreement.

A motion to adjourn was made by Charmaine Hardaway and seconded by Dennis Ifill. The motion was unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned 6:50pm.

/s/ Charmaine Hardaway
CHARMAINE HARDAWAY
Secretary, Local 1359

Approved: October 9, 2007