

JULY-AUGUST 2018

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF SEIU 721



721 IS READY TO FIGHT



**A MESSAGE FROM SEIU 721
PRESIDENT BOB SCHOONOVER**

If you want clear proof of why public employees need unions, just take a look at management's initial proposals at the bargaining table in LA County:

- A wage proposal that doesn't even come close to covering inflation in LA's skyrocketing housing market.
- A freeze on employer payments for health care, despite spiraling health care costs.
- An attempt to roll back or eliminate Flex Earnings, the payments LA County workers receive to offset their share of increasingly costly health insurance.

LA County is pro-worker. The City of LA is a union town. California's successful Fight for \$15 was born here. We celebrate diversity, fight to protect equality, and resist efforts to scapegoat workers, immigrants and poor people. Voters here rejected Trump by a 3 to 1 margin.

But even in pro-worker LA, SEIU 721 workers had to strike to win full, paid health care benefits. And if we stop fighting for them even for a second, LA County, LA City and every other employer in Southern California will try to take them away.

That's why we use the bargaining process to remind the LA Board of Supervisors, the LA City Council and other local governments that it's SEIU 721 workers who make Southern California run. The proclamations politicians issue and the promises they make to constituents about safer and cleaner streets, healthier children and better communities mean nothing without our training, skills, experience and commitment.

Our Contract Action Teams in LA County and LA City are gearing up for what some members already are calling a dogfight. In the post-Janus era, anti-worker conservatives are feeling emboldened to roll back our rights, our pay and our job security. We're ready to fight back.

Frederick Douglass said, "Power never concedes anything without a demand."

That's why we build strong unions and bargain hard.

Bob Schoonover



PRESIDENT'S REPORT JULY-AUGUST 2018

LA CAT TEAM READY FOR A DOGFIGHT



SEIU 721 LA COUNTY CONTRACT ACTION TEAM GEARS UP FOR AUGUST HEAT



"We know what we want – we want a strong contract. But we're going to have to fight hard to get it."

Linda Dent, Vice President, SEIU 721

Hundreds of LA County SEIU 721 members packed a fiery standing-room-only Saturday morning meeting on August 4 at Holman United Methodist Church in LA to plan a blistering response to a new package of weak proposals put forward by county management.

The county is offering no movement on its 7 percent wage offer, despite skyrocketing LA housing costs, and is proposing freezes and takebacks on Options health care benefits and "Flex Earnings." LA County management wants to reduce or eliminate the "cash back"

the county provides in each pay check to cover the full cost of health benefits.

The CAT team laid out the details of a series of August Heat actions planned for worksites across LA County to demonstrate our solidarity and willingness to fight for a fair contract.

"Brothers and Sisters, this isn't just a CAT meeting today," said Lillian Cabral, Secretary of SEIU Local 721, at the event's conclusion. "We're getting ready for a dog fight! And when we fight, we win!"

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SEIU 721 members are mourning the death of City of LA Department of Transportation Officer Gregory Park, who was killed Friday, July 30 when he was struck by a car in Van Nuys.

Park, a 12-year veteran of the department, was issuing a parking citation on Victory Boulevard when a car involved in nearby collision struck him.

The tragic incident is a reminder of the daily dangers faced by city employees who provide the vital services that keep LA moving. The last time a city traffic officer died was in 1997, when Officer Henry Medina was killed impounding a vehicle. Memorial services are being planned.



SEIU 721 MOURNS THE LOSS OF OUR BROTHER LADOT OFFICER GREGORY PARK

WATTS HEALTH CARE CORPORATION WORKERS WIN STRONG 3-YEAR DEAL



By an overwhelming 98% margin, Watts Healthcare Corporation members ratified a strong three-year contract that protects public safety, increases pay, and limits healthcare cost increases, and provides market rate adjustments for several classifications:

- 11.25% salary increase over the term of the contract
- Limits on Health Care Contributions over three years, as follows:
 - No changes in health care contribution for the first year

- 5% increase in year two
- 8% increase in year three
- Market Rate Adjustments that bring all workers to at least \$15 per hour
- Stronger job security & protections

Watts Bargaining Team members held steadfast and fought hard, refusing to accept management proposals that would have increased health care contributions by up to 275% while offering just a 2.5% wage increase.

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SEIU 721 Riverside County members hit the streets for rolling rallies and COPE efforts to register voters. For a full SEIU 721 rolling rally schedule, visit www.seiu721.org/bbb



SEIU 721 RIVERSIDE MEMBERS TURN UP THE HEAT WITH ROLLING RALLIES

SEIU 721 RIVERSIDE COUNTY COPE ENDORSES ERIC LINDER FOR SUPERVISOR

SEIU 721 Inland Region COPE members have endorsed former State Assembly member Eric Linder for Riverside County Board of Supervisors District 2.

A Corona resident and former member of the state assembly, Eric Linder is committed to fighting for quality of life issues for Riverside County. In the assembly, he fought to improve transportation with the bipartisan expansion of the 91 freeway and pushed for funding for the new UC Riverside School of Medicine, the state's first new public medical school in 40 years. Linder also opposes the wasteful and unnecessary \$40 million county contract with foreign consulting firm KPMG.

Linder joins District 5 candidate Russ Bogh and sitting District 4 supervisor Manny Perez as SEIU 721 endorsed Riverside County Board of Supervisor candidates. Perez was re-elected in June, while Linder and Bogh made the runoff election and will be on the November 6 ballot.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT JULY-AUGUST 2018

SANTOS AND GRAY WIN LACERA SEATS



SEIU 721 congratulates Vivian Gray (pictured above in the center) on her re-election to the LACERA Board of Retirement and Herman Santos (pictured above, right, in the blue coat) on his re-election to the LACERA Board of Investments. When we vote together, we win!



Have you gotten your new Union Strong gear?

Check out new styles with the original or distressed Union Shield! Purple Up with our stylish ladies' racer back tanks, or grab a sweatshirt for those cool nights!

Visit the store link at our homepage at: seiu721.org

**Purple Up
Store**
Rep our union!



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Management at the LA County Sheriff's Department finally has agreed to meet with SEIU 721 members to resolve a wage theft grievance lodged by workers in county jails.

SEIU 721's contract specifically guarantees weekend bonus pay for jail workers, but jail workers have complained of short paychecks dating back to 2014. When pay discrepancies of this type have arisen at other LA County departments, like DHS, administrators have promptly resolved them.

LASD initially led us to believe that they would follow suit and honor our contract, but then indicated only a tiny fraction of the affected workers would be made whole.

We're going to keep the pressure on until jail workers get what they deserve. Stay tuned!



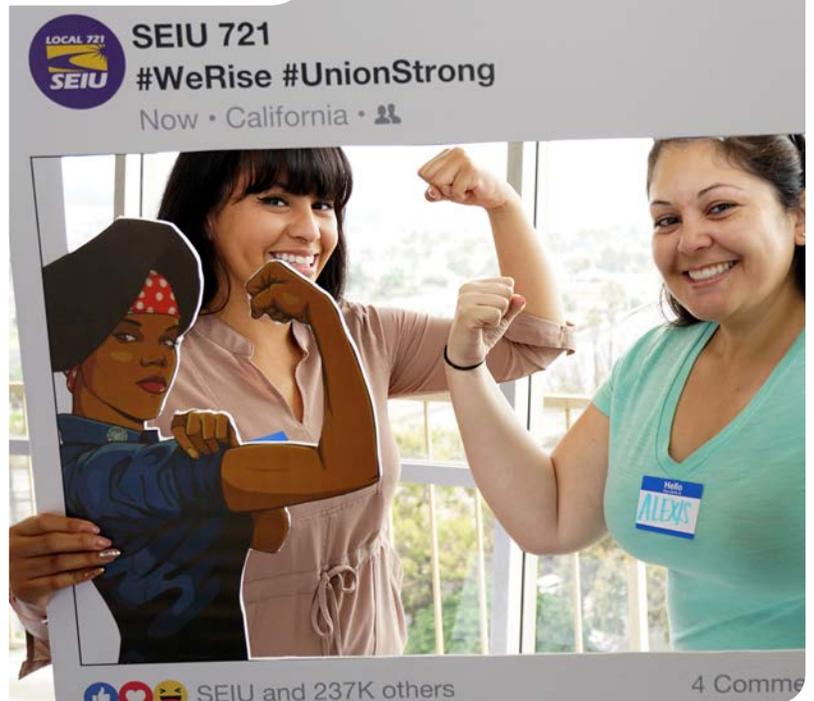
SEIU 721 MEMBERS FIGHT WAGE THEFT AT THE LA SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

SEIU 721 LATINO CAUCUS SAYS "KEEP FAMILIES TOGETHER" AT VENTURA MEET

The SEIU Local 721 Latino Caucus joined with local elected officials and community leaders in Ventura on July 28 to stand up and speak out for family re-unification.

Speakers included SEIU 721 President Bob Schoonover, Chief of Staff Gilda Valdez, Maricela Morales from CAUSE, City of Ventura Deputy Mayor Matt Lavere, SEIU 721 Eboard member Lillian Cabral, SEIU International's Leticia Salcedo and Congresswoman Julia Brownley (CD26) with special recognition for Gilda Valdez and Jeannette Sanchez-Palacios.

SEIU International's Leticia Salcedo gave a powerful presentation on how Trump's proposed Public Charge rule puts medical and social programs at risk and how groups like SEIU and the National Immigration Law Center are fighting back.



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With dozens of submissions from worksites across Southern California, South Central District #27 is our first Going Overboard winner! It was a very tough competition, but District #27's remarkable transformation earned them a popcorn social and special ribbon to hang on their beautiful union board. Keep your eyes peeled for our next union board contest, which is coming very soon!



AFTER

SOUTH CENTRAL DPSS WINS INAUGURAL GOING OVERBOARD CONTEST

RED CROSS WORKERS BARGAIN FOR FAIR CONTRACT: "WE'RE THE LIFE BLOOD"



BEFORE

SEIU 721 Steward Michelle Welz is representing SoCal American Red Cross workers in national bargaining as we fight for improvements in scheduling, worker and donor safety, wages, and time-off allowances. American Red Cross employees are the life blood of the organization, which provides about 40% of our nation's blood and blood components, which frontline workers collect from volunteer donors. The Coalition of American Red Cross Unions consists of representatives from 9 national unions: SEIU, AFSCME, AFT, CWA, IBT, IUOE, UAW, UFCW and USW. Thousands of union members from across the country are standing strong because together we rise and together we win!



NEW Trump “**PUBLIC CHARGE**” rules will punish working people and immigrants who access public services just to survive!



TRUMP'S ATTACK ON IMMIGRANT FAMILIES

SEIU 721 MEMBERS: TAKE CHARGE AND PROTECT WORKING FAMILIES

Sign up for alerts today at seiu.org/takecharge

The Trump administration is plotting a new attack on working families and documented immigrants, and SEIU 721's Latino Caucus is urging all SEIU 721 members to get involved, sign up and fight back!

Trump's Department of Homeland Security is quietly plotting to severely limit legal immigrant by changing the definition of which immigrants are likely to become a “public charge.” Historically, “public charge” has referred to immigrants likely to become wholly dependent on the government for financial and material support. DHS's rule change would drastically expand the definition to cover families who use almost any public service, including school immunizations and the earned Earned Income Tax Credit.

The change is designed make it extremely difficult to apply for a green card or extend a visa when applying to become a permanent US resident. The change would also likely discourage millions of documented immigrants from accessing healthcare, nutrition and social services for which they or their U.S. citizen dependents are eligible.

The SEIU 721 Latino Caucus is asking all members to sign up at SEIU.org/takecharge and submit comments opposing the rule change.

Join us in making your voice heard and let this administration know we won't let them punish immigrants and families for being poor. Together We Rise!

Gilda Valdez, Chief of Staff



Want to verify that you are receiving all the benefits and protections of union membership?

Call the SEIU Local 721 Membership Department at: (213) 738-8410.