Essential Worker Pay Negotiations Update – June 13, 2022

IUOE Members,

Your Union and negotiating team have been rigorously meeting with the State of California to address the topic of Essential Worker Pay. The Union’s position continues to remain unchanged, our members performed vital services for the State while under the increased risk of exposure during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Federal Government gave all states the ability to provide Essential Worker Pay via the American Rescue Plan Act, however, the State of California has yet to elect to provide such payment to any State Employee(s).

The Union has passed a proposal to the State which included a well-deserved, Essential Worker bonus for our bargaining unit members who physically showed up to the worksite and continue to work during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The State has proposed, via the State Budget, a plan to issue a retention payment to employees who work in healthcare settings however, it does include our members who work in the Department of Corrections, Veterans Affairs, State Hospitals, and Developmental Services. Obviously, our members also work in Departments other than those mentioned above. The Union was not satisfied with the State’s proposal; therefore, the Union has countered with a proposal which is inclusive of our entire bargaining unit as a super majority of our bargaining unit was unable to participate in any type of telecommute program.

Our next negotiation date is set for June 29th. We will provide a future update as more information becomes available.

In Solidarity,

Brandy Johnson    Travis Tweedy    Deric Barnes
District Representative, Local 39   Director, Local 3   Director, Local 501
State of CA Unit 12 & Unit 13 Coordinator