

CONTRACT RATIFICATION MEETING - AUGUST 19, 2008

This is a tentative agreement which covers 3,400 City employees.

These employees who are really partners with the City often go unseen and underappreciated and I would like to thank them for their patience, perseverance and support in these protracted negotiations. I am proud of them for their continued dedication and service to the citizens of the City.

We do not embrace this contract, but we accept it to break the stalemate that has kept our members from receiving any increase in pay for a month and a half.

We do so understanding that this is a short-term 10 month contract.

And, we do so, because it does include many of the very important non-economic issues that we have sought including:

1. Workplace violence to which our members are subjected;
2. General health and safety issues;
3. Assistance in training and education;
4. Redesigning Government Initiative;
5. Contracting out language which will save the City money.

Now the hard work begins to implement this contract.

Thank you.