

April 2, 2020

Greetings OPEIU Local 8 Members in Ellensburg,

I have had questions from several of you asking what will be happening after the April 3rd date as indicated in John Akers' email on March 23rd.

On March 13th I filed a "Demand to Bargain" (DTB) with the City. This DTB, in conjunction with your Collective Bargaining Agreement, cements a legal obligation with the City to negotiate any changes in your working conditions. With the City sending employees home on Paid Administrative leave we had no need to negotiate any impacts because you all have been kept whole – meaning that your wages and benefits have all been kept intact.

The department managers are now looking at what the next steps for them will be because of the extension of the Stay-at-Home order. Please keep in mind, your Employer can not make any changes to your working conditions without negotiating with your OPEIU Local 8 Bargaining Team.

I will be meeting with your Bargaining Team this afternoon to discuss what changes we might see from the City, but at this time they have not formally come to us with a specific proposal. Until we have a formal proposal from the City, we are all just speculating what they have in mind.

I have concerns that this Stay-at-Home order could last much longer than another two weeks and I want to make sure we have protection for all of you in place for the long haul that we could be facing.

I hope you are all staying healthy and safe during these uncertain times. I will be in touch again very soon.

In Solidarity,

Angie Wedekind
Union Representative
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