

Union ★
Update

OPEIU
Local



For Local 8 Members at Friends of Youth

September 17, 2024

Bargaining Update: Negotiations Have Officially Begun!

We're excited to announce that after a long road, we have officially begun negotiations for our first Collective Bargaining Agreement (aka contract) with Friends of Youth! On Friday, September 13th, our Bargaining Team sat down with management to start working on a contract that will protect and advance our rights in the workplace.



OPEIU Bargaining Team (listed left to right): Leslie Beckman, Rinn Kleinman, Anna De Long, Tahni Nikitins, and Beckett Weeks (not pictured Jenny Buehler)

Our team is fully committed to this process, preparing proposals that we will present to Friends of Youth each time we meet. These proposals will eventually come together

in a comprehensive agreement addressing key issues like wages, benefits, time off, and member representation on safety and other committees. With a strong contract, the Employer's promises become legally enforceable rights, ensuring that what we negotiate today cannot be undone by leadership changes or management's whims.

This is why we organized and won our union – to guarantee we always have a voice and a vote in our workplace. Friends of Youth has expressed readiness and excitement to bargain in good faith, and we're eager to hold them to their word as we work to create a contract that puts everything in black and white for you to vote on when the time comes.

At our first session last Friday, we presented proposals related to:

- Union Recognition
- Progressive Discipline
- Hiring Procedures
- Seniority and Layoffs
- Equity in the Workplace

We expect to receive Friends of Youth's response to these proposals at our next bargaining session on Friday, September 20th.

We'll keep you updated regularly throughout this process and let you know about actions you can take to support the team as we move forward.

Questions? Contact Union Representative Phoebe Feldsher at phoebe@opeiu8.org or 206-441-8880 ext. 119.



OFFICE AND PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION LOCAL 8

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