



Michigan AFSCME Council 25

News Release

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AFSCME Still Optimistic on Settlement

Bing Needs to Release Information, Figures

Detroit MI October 05, 2009 -- Cathy Phillips, Chief Negotiator for Michigan Council 25 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), AFL-CIO, in contract talks with the City of Detroit, issued the following statement:

“It is apparent that Detroit Mayor Dave Bing does not understand the collective bargaining process,” stated Phillips. “He came to our meeting today with demands, but without providing the information to allow us to evaluate his demands.

“He has refused to provide the cost of his proposals, or other information to justify his demands,” continued Phillips. “He demands a 10 percent cut, but he has no numbers or information to explain the source of his 10 percent figure. He demands other cuts, but he is unwilling or unable to quantify the cost of these items, and the impact each item would have on the deficit. He simply expects us to agree to concessions because he has demanded them.

“We are still optimistic about settling this contract,” concluded Phillips. “Despite the Mayor’s pronouncements, bargaining has not ended. We have another meeting scheduled with the City on Tuesday, October 13. AFSCME has placed proposals on the table, to which the City has not yet responded. We hope the City will come prepared with the necessary information, so we can reach an agreement at last.”

Michigan AFSCME Council 25 represents more than 90,000 public workers across Michigan. AFSCME International represents 1.4 million public workers nationwide. News releases issued by Michigan AFSCME Council 25 are available at

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- 30 -