

August 31, 2017

# WPAS Strike News

## WPAS Employees Walk Out To Go on Strike

On August 16, OPEIU members at Welfare and Pension Administrative Services Inc. (WPAS) overwhelmingly rejected the employer's *second* last, best, and final offer and voted to go on strike. Exactly when the strike was to occur was not known. Everyone was wondering when was it going to happen.

On Wednesday, August 23 at approximately 11:45 am OPEIU representatives arrived at WPAS's Mercer Island office and declared "WE ARE ON STRIKE" to WPAS workers. WPAS workers who occupy the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the office building left their desks and hit the street. Those who weren't working in the office but were telecommuting received an email at the same time to let them know the strike had begun.

Today is day **nine** of the WPAS Picket and the turnout has been strong, with workers holding the line from 7 am to 5 pm. We have stopped garbage pickup and UPS has been forced to send a supervisor to deliver to the building because Union drivers won't cross our picket line. Our strike has been sanctioned by Joint Council of Teamsters No. 28.

We need to continue to send a strong message to WPAS that workers are not going to back down. **We need to all be out on the line daily, with a strong showing right up until 5 pm.**

**Important Picket Protocol:** When **showing** up for picket duty make sure to sign in on the daily sign-in/sign-out roster and sign out when your shift ends.

## OPEIU files Unfair Labor Practice charge against WPAS

The day before WPAS workers went out on strike, owner Richard Kafer emailed to you a memo about potential consequences from the Union if a worker crosses the picket line and wants to work. The email further alleged that an employee could be terminated for crossing the picket line. OPEIU was contacted by many of your co-workers concerned by the email and OPEIU believes the employer's communication to staff was misleading and violated the National Labor Relations Act. OPEIU filed an unfair labor practice (ULP) charge the very next day.

During the strike announcement OPEIU believes that owner Tony Ibrahim committed additional unfair labor practices by engaging in acts of surveillance and threats of intimidation and coercion against employees on the picket line. As a result Local 8 has amended its initial charge with the NLRB to add the additional ULPs committed during the strike.

The next step is that these charges will be investigated by the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB).

**Questions? Contact your Union Representatives**

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