

TEAMSTERS LOCAL 117: Members at King County

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Total Comp Bargaining Update

By Spencer Nathan Thal

COUNTY'S "JOINT LABOR" PROPOSAL REJECTED IN TOTAL COMP BARGAINING



On Monday, April 25, our King County Coalition of Unions bargaining team met with the employer to continue total compensation contract negotiations for the 2017-2018 biennium.

As expected, the County presented a comprehensive economic proposal that responded to our call for across-the-board wage increases, proposed increases to the County's contribution for health and welfare, and our proposal to address longevity and the current merit-based pay plan.

The employer also came to the table with a proposal for common language issues in what they called a "joint labor" agreement. That presentation was not received well by the Union committee. The committee felt that the employer's proposal was seeking to erode hard-won language issues that in many cases are unique to specific bargaining units. The Union group unanimously and categorically rejected that proposal.

On Wednesday, April 27, the Union spent several hours reviewing the

employer's economic proposals in an effort to focus on the highest priorities of the Union membership and to cull out those things that are less critical. We also developed a counterproposal to address issues that are not resolved at the master table – what we are calling the small table economic and non-economic issues.

We will be presenting our comprehensive economic proposal to the County at a joint session on Wednesday, May 11. We are also tentatively scheduled to meet with the employer on May 25. At some point in June, we hope to conclude negotiations so that we can present to you the County's best offer for your review and a ratification vote sometime in mid-summer.

If you have questions, please contact your bargaining committee member or your Business Representative, Suzette Dickerson, at 206-441-4860 ext. 1232.

Thank you for your service to the residents of King County.



"The County had an opportunity to come to the table with something that was equitable and would meet all members' needs. They failed. They missed the mark."

***Brian Pinney
Solid Waste Division***



"A lot of us have worked years on our contracts and all of that was going by the wayside with what they proposed."

***Mari Jane Friel
DOT***