



Summer 2017

CITY WORKER NEWS!

Newsletter of the Municipal Council of UE local 150, NC Public Service Workers Union

<http://UE150.org>

City Workers Across the State Fight for a Voice in the Budget Process

Spring is budget season. Cities, counties and the State government all act to establish new budgets before the beginning of the July 1 Fiscal year. Our union members were very active in several cities and also at the State Legislature making an impact this season. Check out some of the highlights in this newsletter.

CHARLOTTE:

- ★ \$15/hr minimum wage started 2 years early!
- ★ 6 weeks paid parental leave
- ★ 1.5% merit + 1.5% market salary increase

DURHAM:

- ★ 12 weeks paid parental leave
- ★ 4% merit salary increase

GREENSBORO

- ★ 6 weeks paid parental leave
- ★ 3% merit salary increase
- ★ Roster wages raised \$1/hr. to \$11.50
- ★ Current proposal for Police to get 7.5%



Pictured above: James Brooker III, Raleigh sanitation worker, member of UE150 speaks at press conference on June 6 before City Council meeting supported by other community-labor members from the Triangle People's Assembly.

Raleigh:

- ★ Entirely new pay structure - similar to the plan the Union won in Charlotte - where workers will finally get brought up based on years of service, resulting in most getting a few thousand \$\$ of a raise.

Charlotte: \$15/hr minimum wage implemented 2 years early!

The Charlotte City council voted June 12 to raise the minimum wage of city employees to \$15 per year starting in February 2018, two years ahead of the original resolution passed last year! This is a result of feeling pressure from our UE150 members, Raise Up for \$15 and the entire movement pushing! This will have a major impact on laborers in Solid Waste and other workers currently making \$13.50, and help raise the wages for all workers.

Since the Union's victory of the major pay scale increases to wages based on years of service this past February, the City council only passed modest 1.5% merit and 1.5% market adjustments for all non-exempt City workers. In the 2018 Budget, the City also passed 6 weeks paid parental leave for families with new children, along with \$6 million for affordable housing.



Pictured above: Special Transportation Services (STS) workers in Charlotte, UE150 members Stephanie Campbell, Sharon Black and Tonka Johnson.

Greensboro mobilizes members to City Council budget hearing

UE150 Greensboro City Worker Union leaders attended and spoke out at the June 6 Budget hearing. Chapter President **Charles French**, VP **Ramone Johnson** and Recording Secretary **Arthur Erickson** spoke thanking the council and city manager for working with our union to advance our issues over recent months and help establish payroll dues deduction, and re-writing two policies to help expand workers constitutional rights.

Charles also spoke about unfairness in City Council member Mike Barber proposal to raise wages of police by 7.5% while the rest of City workers only getting proposed 3% merit. Barber was apparently basing his proposal on alleged high turnover rates of police. However, records show that City employees in all other departments, excluding Fire, have a very similar turnover rate!

UE150 leaders also spoke out urging the City Council to raise up roster workers wages to \$13 an hour this

year, to move towards the \$15/hr as passed in a resolution last year. Roster workers will get \$1/hr. raise to \$11.50 per hour (In February, the union helped secure wage increase to \$10.50 from \$8.03 per hour).



People's Assembly helps to build support for Raleigh City Workers

Push back against other racist attacks, for affordable housing, and freedom to assembly in the City!

At the June 6 Raleigh City Council meeting and press conference, City worker & UE150 union activist **James Brooker III** and UE150 Political Action Chair **Angaza Laughinghouse** spoke on the Union's statewide peoples budget campaign and City workers proposals on increased wages, health care, safe staffing and more.

Many allies of the Triangle Peoples Assembly (in which Black Workers For Justice and NC Public Service Workers Union-UE150 are members of) also spoke and rallied at the Raleigh Council meeting around exorbitant city/police fees for protest/action permits which limits freedom of assembly, targeting cars in for towing in Black and Brown communities, City gentrification of Black/Brown neighborhoods, abolishing the 19 democratic elected grassroots "Community

Advisory Councils" (CACs) and replacing them with 5 regional panels selected by City Council, and also establishment of civilian police review board to hold the police accountable.

Congratulations to everyone who made our action this week possible. About 1/3 of council chambers was full of Black people, many acknowledged our 150 union. City Council members Russ Stephenson and David Cox also stated they wanted to meet with our Raleigh Chapter union members.

We had a truly and really powerful showing at City Council...Thanks to the Triangle Peoples Assembly for mobilizing supporters!

UE150 Pushes Back at State Legislature

During our Political Action week in May, one of the main demands we were pushing was **STOP TAX GIVEAWAYS FOR WEALTHY & CORPORATIONS**. Make the wealthy and corporations pay their fair share, stop shifting more taxes onto working people!

House Bill 436 would have a major impact on City workers because it would **eliminate impact fees**, and be a huge tax giveaway to corporate developers. Essentially allowing large developers to not pay millions in dollars in fees to the City's and force local residents and City workers to pay for their connection to City services. This would be a huge drain on city budgets.

Senate Bill 75, would create a constitutional amendment to lower the maximum allowable income tax rate in NC from 10% to 5.5%. This will not help working people, only the wealthy.

We also pushed for raises, defended state health plan.



Durham City workers Nathanette Mayo, Romey Gaddy and Alvin Vinney at May 1, International Workers Day.

WE PUSHED BACK SB 375... .for now! **Senate Bill 375** would **eliminate union payroll deduction**, effectively cutting off our organization to resources to organize. This bill passed the Senate in April and was sitting in the House Rules Committee, where it was scheduled to be heard June 20. However, UE150 organized a mass call-in day on Rep. David Lewis, forcing them to withdraw the bill, for now.

Summer Cook-out



SAVE THE DATE:
Saturday, July 22
2:00pm

Independence Park, Charlotte

Bring family members and come hang-out, get to know other union members and leaders.

12:00pm New member training and orientation
Before Cook-out, same day

City Worker Chapter Monthly Meetings!

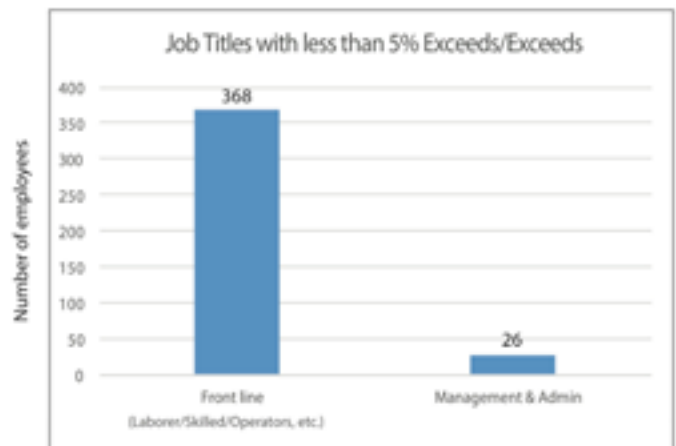
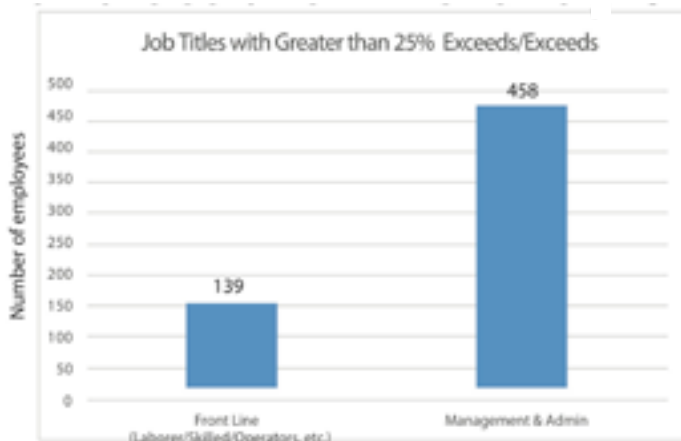
Charlotte: Saturday, July 8 at 3pm, 2424 N. Davidson St (2nd Sat. every month)

Durham: Thurs., July 20 @ 6pm, Raise Up office, 2220 N. Roxboro (3rd Thursdays)

Greensboro: Tuesday, July 11, 5:30pm, 107 E. Washington St. (1st Tuesdays)

Raleigh: Thurs., July 13, 4pm, UE150 office, 805 New Bern Ave (2nd & 4th Thursdays)

City of Durham's Merit Raises are Unfair



Source: City of Durham, Human Resources, FY 2015-16