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To: publictestimony@newhavenct.gov

Subject: Local 3144 Contract Testimony

Dear Board Members,

As you are aware, the employees of the City of New Haven; members of Local 3144 have finalized negotiation of the contract.

Employees who have been working under the current contract since its inception in 2019. The new negotiated wages will assist many employees that had stagnant pay for many years and no step movement since 1998. This new contract will finally provide much needed wage increases until 2026. While these changes will undoubtedly result in increase wages for the union employees, Local 3144. It is important to keep in mind that this is still significantly lower than the salaries of similarly-positioned employees in the private, state and other municipalities.

We still have more work to do to ensure the retention of new talent and historical knowledge of this institution via compensation and fair treatment of the employees. The union members are dedicated employees who are here to serve the public.

I've had many employees calling me to personally express the positive impact the new wages will have in their lives, so many were impacted by inflation before and now.

Municipal employees who have been part of the working poor in New Haven. They now see some relief and hope for future progress in the next negotiations. Employees should have yearly increases to ensure the retention of talent, comprehensive and affordable medical care, a correct funded pension, other benefits and a safe and respectful workplace.

We look forward to future negotiations with the city and hope for a working relations that will move us forward.

In Solidarity,

Gildemar Herrera
President, Local 3144