

September 2, 2013

His Worship R. Bratina
Mayor
City of Hamilton
71 Main St. W
Hamilton, On.
L8P 4Y5



Sent: Clerk@hamilton.ca

Dear: Mayor Bratina / Members of Council,

Hamilton has been a pioneer in the labour movement for over a hundred years. It was the first place in Canada to have a local assembly for the Knights of Labor in 1881. In 1906 Hamilton was home to the HSR strike which on November 26 of 1906 saw Mayor Biggar read the riot act that would use soldiers from the Toronto's Stanley Barracks and from London enter into a bloody battle with strikers and their supporters. Jumping to 1946 and we enter the strike at Stelco. This was another strong show of solidarity that had striking USW workers ramming company boats in the harbour and former airmen who returned from world war two playing chicken in the skies over Hamilton with company planes. All this was to prevent supplies of food from reaching loyalist workers who did not walk off the plant with their fellow union brothers.

A long history this City certainly has had and continues too. Tonight at your council meeting (Sept. 11, 2013) you will see in the stands a show of support for current CUPE 5167 members. Choosing a more peaceful manner than what history has shown in Hamilton. This is demonstration to highlight the lack of communication that Senior Management has with its front line labour as well with its members of council. CUPE 5167 has current terminated brothers and sisters in Housing, Ontario Works, Airport, Darts, Good Shepard, Inside Workers and our unfortunate Outside Workers. The majority painted with the same brush.

In February of 2013 CHCH, Bill Kelly and the Spectator were all buzzing about an asphalt scandal within the City of Hamilton. The buzz continued as 32 roads employees were terminated for "Time Theft" and speculation through the media that these employees were stealing asphalt. The improper reporting as well as one Councillor publicly supporting the actions of senior management has left a black eye on all front line municipal workers. Moral has gone down and following the media blitz front line workers have been verbally attacked and in some cases physically assaulted by being spit on by members of the public.

Today we ask that Council hold senior management responsible for their actions. We ask that the City of Hamilton review the terminations at hand and place the majority of them to mediation which would allow many individuals back to work and save the City of Hamilton from high costs attributed to arbitration. Today we ask that Council, Management, and Labour enter into a new line of communication and grow as a team to hash out old qualms and see to a bright future that is fair for everyone. Working together we can bring change and a new "culture" for years to come.

In Solidarity

Barry Conway
Hamilton Labour United
Local 21
Political Action