



Kriss Worthington

Councilmember, City of Berkeley District 7
2180 Milvia Street, 5th Floor, Berkeley, CA 94704

PHONE 510-981-7170 FAX 510-981-7177 kworthington@ci.berkeley.ca.us

CONSENT CALENDAR

July 17, 2007

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmembers Kriss Worthington, Max Anderson, Linda Maio and Mayor Tom Bates

Subject: Recent Lockout Of Waste Management Inc. Employees

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City send a letter to Waste Management Inc. executives expressing the following concerns over the recent lockout of waste management employees:

1. That the City is concerned that workers were locked out of the Waste Management Inc. facility.
2. That the action was unnecessary. It is common practice during contract negotiations that the previous contracts are extended.
3. The company's failure to extend the previous contracts has led to delays in service resulting in customers not receiving trash and/or recycling pick-ups.
4. This precipitous and drastic action was uncalled for, unnecessary and unreasonable.
5. The City strongly opposes actions that the company has taken against workers and urges Waste Management Inc. to renegotiate in good faith.
6. We urge the company to increase wages and benefits in the new contract and not reduce them beyond their current levels.
7. Even if an agreement is reached before the City Council vote the City should still send a letter expressing its concern over this unnecessary and irresponsible lockout.

BACKGROUND:

The Teamsters are not on strike. Their contract with Waste Management Inc. expired on June 30, 2007. While the unions have been bargaining in good faith, the management has gone against promises of not seeking concessions and has asked for reductions in wages and benefits. It has also threatened workers by hiring scabs, following workers during their routes and distributing misleading flyers. It has taken the drastic step of locking out workers who want to do their jobs.

These actions go against the company's stated objectives of benefiting the communities that it serves and falls far short of community expectations for corporate behavior in Alameda County. Despite management's unwillingness to seriously negotiate, the workers did not go on strike.

The management's unreasonable action to lock out the workers could have been avoided if the company simply continued the previous contracts until a new contract was negotiated.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

None

CONTACT PERSON:

Councilmember Kriss Worthington, 981-7170.

