

# Stand Up!

ISSUE 2  
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*For Our Communities, Our Families, Ourselves*

## Security Officers Meet To Discuss Our Future

On February 16<sup>th</sup> officers from all three of the major Boston and Cambridge contractors came together to review what we have done so far and what are the next steps. Officers from all three companies have been participating with the signing of Union cards at a rapid pace. A review of the Unionization process clarified our need to reach super majorities of officers with cards in each of the three contractors before we submit the cards to a neutral third-party (an arbitrator) for review.

### Sharing Our Viewpoint

At the meeting officers broke down into smaller groups diverse in company and location and talked about what personally moved them to want to form a Union. Officers spoke about the low wages, lack of raises, no sick days, and how many cannot afford the company-offered healthcare plan. Another shared theme was the lack of respect for the important work that we do.

### Organizing Our Union

After sharing what motivated each of us to want the Union, we discussed how to structure our campaign. We decided that we would have one leadership body with the bargaining committee that acts as a sub-committee accountable to the larger group. This larger body, called the Contract Action Team (CAT), will be responsible for planning and organizing our community and political support and the general visibility of our campaign. It was decided that in order to be on the CAT an officer must collect 1) At least 10 signatures of officers from their worksite if assigned to a building of 20 or more officers or 2) At least 50% (signatures) of the officers from their worksite if assigned to a building that has less than 20 officers.

From this larger committee we would agree upon all the different types of jobs, work locations, shifts, family status, age, and any other demographic criteria that need to be represented on the bargaining committee.



The bargaining committee would then be chosen out of the CAT with an eye to making sure we have a committee that reflects the entire workforce.

Included with this newsletter is a petition for the CAT. If you are interested please collect the necessary signatures and turn the petition into a Union organizer or please feel free to come by our offices and drop it off anytime between Monday -Friday 9a-5p.

### Next Steps

Officers left the meeting committed to sign up more officers and to continue to organize to build the Union. In addition, officers at the meeting reviewed a sample bargaining survey which will be finalized and ready for distribution in the coming weeks. The bargaining survey is our way of determining what our goals are and how to establish them by winning our first contract. The results of the survey will tell the CAT what the most important issues are that the officers face.

Another important aspect of our campaign is the support of our religious leaders, elected leaders and other community organizations. Security officers have begun the process of meeting with these important allies. If you are interested in setting up a meeting with your pastor, rabbi, imam or priest to talk about the campaign or would like to attend meetings with other community organizations and elected leaders to ask for their support, please contact Jeremy Shenk, Local 615 community organizer at (617) 878-7520. For any other questions, thoughts or suggestions please call our general Stand for Security number at (617) 878-7488.

News Around the Country:  
Twin City Officers hold  
Historic One Day Strike

Officers Take a Stand For  
Affordable Health Care

Prompted by the failure of security contractors to address affordable health insurance, security officers held a strike for the first time ever in the Twin Cities on Monday, February 25, on the three largest security contractors in the area.

“From the beginning, this has been about building safer communities,” added Mike Kipka, a security officer at Block E in Minneapolis. “Whether it’s affordable family health insurance or taking steps to improve training and reduce turnover in our industry, we need to do what’s best not only for ourselves but for everyone in the Twin Cities.”

The one-day strike featured numerous rallies with hundreds of striking officers, elected leaders, and community allies such as U.S. Senate candidate Al Franken, State Representative Paul Thissen, St. Paul City Councilman Dave Thune, and Rev. Bruce Arnevik.

“Since day one, we have been committed to settling a contract that provides us with affordable health care for ourselves and our families in a responsible manner,” said James Matias, a security officer for American Security in Saint Paul. “Unfortunately, the security companies would rather leave our health at risk than work together for solutions.”



# Allied Barton Officers In Cambridge and Boston Become SEIU Local 615 Members!!!!

On February 29<sup>th</sup>, a neutral third-party (an arbitrator) reviewed all of the signed Union cards submitted by Allied Barton officers and certified that indeed a majority of Allied Barton officers want the Union. A strong majority of 60% was submitted by the Union thus demonstrating the strong and wide support for Unionization. A next step for the Campaign is to finish signing up the Northeast and Securitas officers.

## Breakfast In Honor of Dr. King

**On the 40th Anniversary of his assassination join your fellow officers, community activists, and elected leaders as we commemorate and continue Dr. King’s struggle to eradicate poverty and lift up the community.**

Friday, April 4th  
8:00am-10:00am

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Produced by SEIU local 615, the union for Security Officers, Janitors, and other property service workers in Massachusetts and New England

This is not a request to cease services or deliveries.