



For Immediate Release

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County Board Approves Tentative AFSCME Contract

October 23, 2003. Cincinnati, Ohio. The Hamilton County Board of Commissioners today approved a new tentative agreement with AFSCME (American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees), the union that bargains for workers in the Hamilton County Department of Job and Family Services (HCJFS). The union is scheduled to vote on the new contract at 6 p.m. Friday, Oct. 24.

AFSCME members previously rejected another contract that had tentative approval. The difference between the contract rejected Oct. 17 and the latest version is a provision for new HCJFS employees, in that bargaining unit, to pay an administrative fee, called “fair share,” to the union. The bargaining unit has about 1,000 employees.

“I am pleased and optimistic,” said David Krings, county administrator. “Pleased that we were able to reach tentative agreement without a strike; optimistic that the AFSCME membership will approve the proposal. It has the backing of the union’s leadership, their bargaining team and their professional staff. And, that should overcome the misinformation, designed to confuse the membership, posted on a Web site not sanctioned by either the union or the county.”

If the union rejects this contract proposal, they will be able to strike on Monday, Oct. 27.

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