

# Union, City Meet on ACS Layoffs

Local 371 officers and staff met with City officials June 9 to discuss layoffs in the Administration for Children's Services. ACS announced that at-risk letters were scheduled to be mailed that day to 93 workers, and that July 18 is the last scheduled day of employment.

The affected titles include Congregate Care Specialist (75), Homemaker (17), and Supervising Home Economist (1). The layoffs will effectively eliminate the use of these titles in ACS.

The layoffs come amidst an escalating attack on social services in New York City. Earlier this year, Mayor Bloomberg ordered City agencies to cut their budgets by five percent. "For economic reasons and business necessity, we have determined that these positions are not sustainable on the ACS budget," said ACS general counsel Joe Cardieri.

President Faye Moore maintains that this is not a responsible move for the City to make. "Oftentimes in a brutal economy, the number of children coming into care increases... the City will be ill prepared to handle this because it doesn't have the staff to care for these children." Moore highlighted

the City's inconsistency in eliminating one title for "economic necessity," yet continuing to hire new workers in other titles.

The Union demanded that the City find new positions for the 93 displaced workers. "For workers and for the Union, layoffs are always the worst thing that could happen," said Anthony Wells, VP of Negotiations. "We need to find opportunities for each of these workers to land somewhere, even if it's in titles not represented by this Union," he added. The City is exploring new positions for displaced workers, including jobs in the Department of Juvenile Justice. The City has raised the possibility of filling 26 positions at the Children's Center and employing displaced Congregate Care Specialists in these positions as Children's Counselors. The Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS) has created a questionnaire to determine whether displaced workers meet the qualifications for positions in the Department of Juvenile Justice.

A follow-up meeting will be held, and The Unionist will report on developments as they arise.

## Celebrate Caribbean Heritage June 20

Celebrate Caribbean Heritage with the Union on Friday evening June 20 at District Council 37. The Keynote Speaker will be Roger Toussaint, the dynamic president of Transport Workers Union Local 100. The featured musical guest star will be Sugar Aloes. Other musical entertainers scheduled to appear are the St. Matthews Harmony Steel Orchestra and Tiga and his band Tchaka. The evening's festivities begin at 5:30 p.m. with a meal of Caribbean food, and extend



**Keynote speaker  
Roger Toussaint.**

until midnight. There will also be vendors, art exhibits and music provided by DJ Denise Jones.

The theme of the celebration is "Proud Caribbean roots strengthened through our struggles, victories and economic contributions." Lloyd Permaul, Local 371's vice president of grievances, is coordinating the event and will MC it. "Everyone who has attended prior Caribbean Heritage Celebrations knows what a great time we have," said Permaul. "I hope everyone will come and celebrate with us."

Roger Toussaint was born in Trinidad and Tobago and emigrated to the U.S. when he was 18. He was elected president of TWU 100 as a reform candidate in 2000 and led its militant strike in late 2005 and early 2006 for higher wages and pensions and for improved working conditions. He was subsequently jailed for violating the anti-strike clause of the repressive Taylor Law, and his union was fined \$2.5 million. His activism and aggressive leadership style continues to invite controversy.

Sugar Aloes aka Michael Anthony Osuana is a prominent Calypso singer with such hits as "Party Time" and parang favorite "Juanita." Aloes has amassed a fan base of at least three generations of Trinidadians and calypso lovers region-wide. Sugar Aloes is also famous for his songs "I Love Being Me" and "Signs of the End of Time." On Sunday February 3, 2008 Sugar Aloes was crowned the winner of the Calypso Monarch 2008 Competition at Queens Park Oval in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad.

### Official 15-Day Election Notice

Official 15-day notice is hereby given for the nomination and election of ten (10) delegates and twenty (20) alternate delegates for the Civilians in Law Enforcement Chapter delegation on Wednesday, July 9, 2008 from 6:30p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Union Office, 817 Broadway, Manhattan, 15th Floor.

### Housing Authority Update

At a recent City Council hearing, New York City Housing Authority Chairman Tino Hernandez told the City Council that if NYCHA did not receive adequate funding in the city budget, he will be forced to close NYCHA's Community Centers and Senior Centers. NYCHA has not informed the Union of further layoffs as they are required to do. The Union is monitoring the situation and will meet with NYCHA to address this issue. The Unionist will report on further developments.

### Appreciates Retiree Coverage

To The Editor,

Thanks for keeping the Retirees informed of current "371" happenings such as Charles Ensley's retirement, Bob Thornhill's death, Arnie Goldwag's retirement and Judy Mage and Marty Morgenstern. I also have memories of the "1965 Strike."

Keep it up!

Jacquelyn J. Johnson, Retired Home Economist

## CALENDAR

### June

- 17 ALUMNI MEETING**, Union Office, 817 Broadway, 12th Floor, 2-4 p.m.
- HPD AND SMALLER AGENCIES CHAPTER MEETING**, Union Office, 817 Broadway, 12th Floor, 6:30 p.m.
- 18 DELEGATE ASSEMBLY MEETING**, School of the Future, 127 East 22nd Street, 6:30 p.m.
- 19 LATINO HERITAGE COMMITTEE MEETING**, Union Office, 817 Broadway, 12th Floor, 6:30 p.m.
- 20 CARIBBEAN HERITAGE CELEBRATION**, DC 37, 125 Barclay, 5:30 p.m.
- 23 APS MEETING** Union Office, 817 Broadway, 12th Floor, 6:30 p.m.
- 24 HHC CHAPTER MEETING**, Union Office, 817 Broadway, 12th Floor, 6:30 p.m.
- 25 POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE MEETING**, Union Office, 817 Broadway, 12th Floor, 6:30 p.m.

### July

- 2 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**, Union Office, 817 Broadway, 12th Floor, 6:30 p.m.
- 4 INDEPENDENCE DAY** [An Official City Holiday]
- 9 WOMEN'S COMMITTEE MEETING**, Union Office, 817 Broadway, 12th Floor, 6:30 p.m.
- 15 ALUMNI MEETING**, Union Office, 817 Broadway, 12th Floor, 2-4 p.m.
- 16 DELEGATE ASSEMBLY MEETING**, School of the Future, 127 East 22nd Street, 6:30 p.m.
- 17 LATINO HERITAGE MEETING**, Union Office, 817 Broadway, 12th Floor, 6:30 p.m.
- 23 POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE MEETING**, Union Office, 817 Broadway, 12th Floor, 6:30 p.m.

## the UNIONIST

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