

2019 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Members of Teamsters Local 117



Teamsters Local 117 represents 16,500 working people at 200 employers across Washington State. Over 9,000 Local 117 members work in public service, corrections, and law enforcement providing vital services to our community and keeping the public safe.

1. FOR SAFER WORKPLACES, SAFER COMMUNITIES

GRANT INTEREST ARBITRATION TO DOC AND CAMPUS POLICE

Department of Corrections and law enforcement professionals perform one of the most stressful, dangerous jobs in the United States. Staff safety is dependent on the collective bargaining process to ensure that training, safe staffing levels, and appropriate equipment are provided by the employer.

In some circumstances, both the DOC and the University of Washington Police Department (UWPD) have been unable or unwilling to meet the needs of their employees regarding safety, equipment, and workload. Granting interest arbitration (HB1042/HB1043, SB5021/SB5022) to corrections staff and campus police will result in safer working conditions and ensure that employees at these agencies have the same rights as other public safety personnel, such as the Washington State Patrol and county police, corrections, and firefighters.

In 2014, Governor Inslee signed an MOU granting interest arbitration for DOC employees which was enacted for the 2015-2017 contract. It is time to codify this practice in statute correcting the oversight in the 2002 Personnel System Reform Act.



2. INVEST IN PUBLIC SAFETY

FUND OUR DOC AND UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON POLICE DEPT. CONTRACTS

Employees at the DOC and the University of Washington Police Department (UWPD) put their lives on the line to serve and protect our communities, but are significantly underpaid for the essential public safety work they perform. At the DOC, Correctional Officer 2 positions, for example, are approximately 20% behind the state market and 23% behind the local labor market for midcareer employees. Other DOC classifications are similarly behind their comparables.

A neutral arbitrator has awarded DOC employees a 4% general wage increase in each year of the biennium. OFM has deemed the award financially feasible, and the Governor has included our contract in his budget. At the University of Washington, police officers are an estimated 10-15% behind their comparables. Their 2019-2021 collective bargaining agreement calls for a 2% increase in each year of the biennium. Funding the DOC and UWPD contracts will help level the playing field and boost morale for these essential public safety professionals.

3. RESTORE PEACE OFFICER STATUS FOR DOC

PASS HB 1589 TO RESTORE THE RIGHT FOR TRAINED DOC PERSONNEL TO CARRY A CONCEALED WEAPON

In 2011, the Legislature amended statute to include corrections personnel with other public safety professionals who are eligible to carry a concealed weapon so long as they had receive weapons training and a background check in the previous five years. Late last year, that right was taken away due to a problem with the RCW that invalidated DOC employees' Peace Officer Identification Cards. HB 1589 will fix the law to restore that right. The bill has broad bipartisan support with twenty co-sponsors.

Please contact Teamsters Local 117 Legislative Director Brenda Wiest at 206-459-8324 for more info.

