

AFGE Council 222

Subject: Potential furlough in HSG, GENERAL COUNSEL, ADMIN, PD&R and CFO?



<http://www.afgecouncil222.com>

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Union advised of potential for furlough in five cylinders: Offices of Housing, General Counsel, Administration, PD&R and CFO facing one day furlough during CR

On November 14, 2008, CFO John Cox issued a [memorandum](#) restricting the earning of credit hours by employees in Housing, OGC, Administration, PD&R and CFO. He advised in that memo that HUD is currently under a Continuing Resolution (CR), and that additional problems could arise in the 2nd quarter as a result of the implementation of the annual pay raise.

In December, I was advised of the potential for a one day furlough for these employees, asked for the Union position, and ideas to mitigate the impact of this possibility. We immediately suggested that the agency implement a hiring freeze and a liberal Leave Without Pay policy for these cylinders. We specifically suggested that the agency expedite a liberal LWOP policy prior to the holidays, to give employees the opportunity to spend time with their families. I also submitted a [demand to bargain and a request for additional information](#).

The agency did not implement the liberal LWOP policy and has not scheduled bargaining on this matter. We submitted a question to the Town Hall meeting regarding the possibility of a furlough and agency plans to mitigate the impact. I was advised that a response to the question would be provided during the Town Hall meeting. We were surprised and disappointed when the question went unaddressed.

It appears that the current administration will leave this problem for the incoming administration. The incoming administration will have very little time to consider alternatives to furloughs, increasing the possibility of a one day furlough for employees in Housing, OGC, Administration, PD&R and CFO. The agency has provided us with no new information since the December meeting. We will continue to press for information and for bargaining.

In solidarity,

Russell Varnado,
President, AFGE Council 222

- This e:news is intended for AFGE bargaining unit employees -

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