



CITY OF MANCHESTER

Theodore L. Gatsas
Mayor

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Mayor Announces Additional Tentative Agreements with City Unions

Postpones budget address to provide bargaining units more time

MANCHESTER, NH - - Today Mayor Gatsas announced three additional tentative agreements with City Unions and an agreement with the non-affiliated employees. Up to this point the Patrolmen, Police Supervisors and the Fire Department District Chiefs had entered into tentative agreements with the city. There are ten bargaining units in the City of Manchester; these additional agreements will mean that half of the City's bargaining units have made concessions in addition to the non-affiliated employees.

The unions representing the Library Staff and the Manchester Airport have agreed to the same health concessions as the Manchester Association of Police Supervisors, the Manchester Patrolmen's Association and the Manchester Fire Supervisors (a.k.a District Chiefs). The non-affiliated employees have also come forward and offered to make the same concessions.

"I would like to thank everyone for coming to the table. The Police Unions for leading this charge; without their role and leadership we would not be where we are today. I would also like to thank the District Chiefs at the Fire Department and the Teamsters and the unions they represent, including the Airport and the Library, for their role in this bargaining process," began Gatsas. "I would be remiss if I did not mention the non-affiliated employees, they have also come to the table with a willingness to participate in the solution and they are to be commended," added Gatsas.

The health concessions agreed to, as previously reported, have employees paying an increased contribution rate (from 5% to 12.5%) and increased co-pays and deductibles.

(more)

“I continue to meet and have positive conversations with the remaining city unions. I remain hopeful that we will find common understanding with one another resulting in additional tentative agreements and savings,” added Gatsas.

In light of the recent development with city unions Mayor Gatsas has postponed his budget address, “At this point I believe it would be counterproductive to deliver a budget on Monday that includes layoffs in departments that are trying to put together tentative agreements. We need to do everything possible to conclude these discussions in the same tenor and positive discourse that we have started with. If this means more time before a budget is presented then I am willing to provide our bargaining units with that additional time,” concluded Gatsas.

The Mayor will announce the date of his budget address at a later date. Per section 6.03(b) of the City Charter the Mayor is not required to deliver a budget address until the last day of March.