

TEAMSTERS LOCAL UNION NO. 340

Affiliated with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters
General Teamsters within the Private and Public Sector, State of Maine

www.teamsterslocal340.org



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AUBURN PUBLIC SERVICES WORKERS TO PICKET CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Public works employees will stage an informational picket line to demand better health benefits and an end to substandard wages

AUBURN, MAINE – The workers responsible for maintaining Auburn's roads, parks and infrastructure will demonstrate before City Hall (60 Court Street) on Monday, May 15th, starting at 5:00 PM. The bargaining unit of Mechanics, Equipment Operators, Arborists and Technicians is represented by Teamsters Local Union No. 340. Following a breakdown in contract negotiations, the workers plan to publically protest their substandard wages, which are drastically lower than public works wages in Maine towns of similar size. For example, starting pay for a skilled Mechanic/Welder in Auburn is only 73% of what a mechanic earns working for the City of Saco. Auburn's highest classification (Mechanic) earns less than the lowest classification (Laborer) in Saco.

Entry-level wages in Auburn are so low that the City has difficulty hiring new workers. As current employees retire, the Public Services Department may find itself unable to hire workers to replace them.

Despite this, the City has refused to bring wages in line with market. Neither are the City's benefits sufficient to lure capable CDL drivers away from the private sector. Teamsters Union negotiators have proposed a new health insurance provider—Allegiant Care—which offers superior coverage at a slightly higher cost (a 1.6% increase to the Public Services budget). The City has refused this proposal as well.

Auburn's Public Services employees now have no choice but to make their case before their neighbors.

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