

...Portland managers want end to union-crafted CBA

From Page 2

budget and ahead of schedule, with levels of minority and women participation that exceeded goals.

Maurice Rahming, who owns and runs IBEW-signatory O'Neill Electric, is a minority contractor and serves on a City advisory board, the Equitable Contracting and Purchasing Commission. Rahming says the City's proposed new policy takes all the elements that made the CBA successful and dilutes and removes them.

Dubbed the Community Equity and Inclusion Plan (CEIP), the new policy was crafted outside of public view by a work group of city managers. In October, they released a draft version, which prompted a storm of comment from labor unions,

contractors, and pre-apprenticeship groups. The final version was released on a City web site April 3, along with an explanatory letter signed simply "Sincerely, Work Group."

Rahming says it's even more unlike the CBA than the October draft. It removes unions from any signatory responsibility or oversight role, cuts the liquidated damages provision in half to \$250 a day, and suggests that contractors can hire apprentices referred by unspecified community organizations that aren't state-registered apprenticeship training organizations.

Pushing unions out could limit the success of efforts to diversify the construction workforce. Data from the state Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) suggests that most

"After all the time and effort we put into this, it's a slap in the face."

— Michael Burch, Pacific NW Regional Council of Carpenters

building trades unions today are more successful at bringing in women and minorities than their non-union competitors, says Steve Simms, director of Oregon BOLI Apprenticeship and Training Division.

"By and large our union-affiliated [apprenticeship] programs have a higher female and minority participation rate and ... completion rate than most of their open shop counterparts," Simms told the Labor Press.

"The absence of union lan-

guage and partnership is a problem, because unions do a better job of recruiting and retaining people of color in the trades," says Marshall Runkel, chief of staff to Commissioner Chloe Eudaly. Eudaly, elected last year, made reform of city contracting practices part of her campaign.

"Why isn't the City using the CBA? It's beyond me," Burch said. Before he went to work for the Carpenters union, Burch worked for Portland Youth Builders, one of the pre-apprenticeship training programs that the City issued grants to under the CBA. "We've been after them to come up with a strategic plan, which the CBA turned out to be, for over 10 years, and now that they have one, they're doing everything in their power not to use it."



Trump reaches out to Trades

"I promise you America's labor leaders will always find an open door with Donald Trump," the president told building trades union leaders at a legislative conference in Washington, D.C., April 4. Though delegates mostly listened politely, boos and chuckles broke out when Trump claimed he'd had the support of almost everybody in the room in the 2016 election. Trump received no endorsements from building trades unions. The speech can be seen in its entirety at <http://bit.ly/2nGI9yB>.

KGW returns to labor peace

From Page 1

the beginning it was about busting the union."

Tegna negotiators said the proposal was about giving the station the right to use amateur video shot by members of the public.

SAG-AFTRA agreed to Tegna's non-exclusive jurisdiction proposal; so did IBEW 48 — but only if all three unions agreed to it. IATSE held out.

In the end, with the help of federal mediator Julie Kettler, IATSE and Tegna reached agreement March 16 after Tegna dropped the jurisdiction demand. In turn, IATSE Local 600 agreed that the station could broadcast amateur video from members of the public, as long as it maintains its current staffing level of 17 camera operators.

IATSE's new contract runs through April 1, 2020, and provides for three 2 percent across-the-board annual raises plus a

Union TV in Portland

Of five full-power broadcast television stations in Portland, three have at least some union-represented employees:

KATU (ABC) — IATSE 600
KOIN (CBS) — NABET-CWA Local 51
KGW (NBC) — SAG-AFTRA, IATSE Local 600, IBEW Local 48.

\$1,250 signing bonus equivalent to a 1 percent retroactive raise for the two years that workers were without a union contract. Camera operators' current wage is \$30.61 an hour, while editors make \$26.86.

In the new IBEW contract, members — who had gone without raises in recent contracts — got \$1,000 signing bonuses and immediate wage increases of \$1.80 to \$2.50 an hour, to be followed by 2 percent increases each Aug. 29. The wage scales now top out at \$30.57 to \$35.20 an hour, depending on specialty.

— Don McIntosh

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