



Sokunbi Olufemi  
Exec. Vice-President

Derron DeFreitas  
Secretary & Treasurer

Albert Sloh  
Vice-President

## MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT RAHIM

Brothers and Sisters:

I hope all is well with you and your families! I want to take this opportunity to provide you with the latest information on developments in our Local, especially as it relates to contract negotiations. I also want to thank you for your patience during these difficult contract talks. They are taking a long time because I want to present you with the best contract possible for you to consider ratifying. The priority is to build on our last contract, which for the first time in the Union's history established a step plan that allows our members to reach maximum salary and created an annuity plan for all of us. I am working with my colleagues on the Executive Board and our labor attorneys to not only increase our wages and other compensation but to have our members reach top pay in a shorter period. In addition to a wage increase we are battling for enhancements in dental, prescription and death benefits.

One of the problems that every union in the City including ours faces in labor negotiations, is pattern bargaining. Pattern bargaining means that once a union agrees to a percentage pay scale, all the other unions are stuck with that pattern. A couple of unions have settled with the City establishing the pattern. The only way around that pay scale is expensive arbitration with no guarantee of success. Despite that limitation, we are working hard and being creative to present you with the best contract possible. To add to this complicated process the Labor Commissioner just retired. Fortunately for us he is being replaced by someone I have a good rapport with. I am confident that very soon we will have a proposal for you to consider.

In addition to the contract, we are also working hard on several issues to improve our job. We are pressing the City to reclassify the position of Traffic Agent. Our job has evolved since the days we were called "Meter Maids". Our duties are much more complicated and difficult. However, the compensation has not kept up with the many tasks we are asked to perform. As a matter of fact, I maintain some of them are out of title. Reclassification of the position would call on the City to acknowledge the evolution of the job and establish a new and higher compensation scale.

Our legislative team and lobbyists are working with Albany politicians to grant us peace officer status. They are also pressing the Police Commissioner's Office and DCAS on a title change to better reflect our duties. Also, NYPD has reduced overtime due to budget issues and we are urging them to restore it.

In closing, I want to assure you that our traditional Family Day Picnic is scheduled for August, it was cancelled last year because we really did not have enough time to plan properly, due to the long election season, this year I look forward to meeting with you and your families.

Fraternally Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Syed Rahim'.

Syed Rahim  
President, CWA Local 1182