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From: AFGE Council 222
Subject: Welcome Message to Secretary Marcia Fudge



National Council of HUD Locals – Council 222
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES AFFILIATED WITH AFL-CIO
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-0050
<http://www.afgecouncil222.com>

March 12, 2021

Welcome Message to Secretary Marcia Fudge

Dear Madam Secretary:

On behalf of the Bargaining Unit Employees and Union Officials of the American Federation of Government Employees Council 222, I congratulate you as our 18th Secretary of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Our Union Council looks forward to working with you as this Agency faces challenges to meet the dire housing needs of United States Citizens, while working with less than half the staff it had 30 years ago.

Unfortunately, employee morale, which has never been lower, contributed to the low staffing resources with a continuous vast exodus of employees through retirements and forced removals. For two and a half years, our Council has faced the challenge of negotiating our Collective Bargaining Agreement. We faced a managerial agenda to make it easier to fire HUD Bargaining Unit Employees, restrict the time and scope of collective bargaining and drastically cut the amount of official time available to our Union Representatives. This happened despite the fact that our official time historically has been used to participate in the formulation and implementation of personnel practices to improve conditions of employment so that HUD can retain a strong workforce to accomplish its mission. Now more than ever a stronger workforce with higher morale is needed due to the COVID Pandemic crisis and its affect on housing.

It should be noted that we are yet to hear from Management's Contract Negotiation team on implementing President Biden's Executive Order 14003 "Protecting the Federal Workforce". I am hopeful that we can resolve our Collecting Bargaining Agreement situation soon.

You have my pledge that our Union Council will continue to work with you and your Principal Staff to successfully meet the challenges of your Administration.

Sincerely,

Salvatore T. Viola,

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This e:alert is for HUD AFGE bargaining unit employees