

Petry, Patricia M

From: AFGE Council 222 <AFGECouncil222@HUD.GOV>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 5:04 PM
To: HUD-AFGE-BUE-L@HUDLIST.HUD.GOV
Subject: Copy of email sent to Secretary Fudge and Deputy Secretary Todman today

Below is an email sent from Council 222 President, Sal Viola to Secretary Fudge and Deputy Secretary Todman today:

Dear Secretary Fudge and Deputy Secretary Todman:

Employee COVID cases are rising everywhere within HUD including Headquarters, under the same roof where both of you work.

This has been happening since Management unilaterally decided to have employees report to their assigned offices twice per pay period since April 25th. Management relies on discretionary guidance from the CDC and Safer Workplace Taskforce. Yet this clearly is not working. The numbers of employees contracting COVID are rising.

I know we share the same concern to prevent the transmission of COVID-19. But now, across the U.S., the 7-day average number of new cases is 3 times what it was April 2020.

HUD is relying on Community Level statistics which measures the impact of COVID-19 in terms of hospitalizations and healthcare system strain. Unfortunately, it's not real data to rely on to truly protect HUD employees.

OCHCO and ELR Officials who formerly worked for the Trump Administration were assigned to negotiate Safer Workplace Working Conditions. Six months later these same officials utilize delay tactics to complete negotiations, writing boiler plate letters for principal organization heads to deny remote work. Clearly, they're not working with you. Clearly their concern for the Bargaining Unit's health and safety is arbitrary.

For 2 1/2 years HUD employees successfully met the mission of this agency working remotely from home. HUD systems' data support this. You yourselves thanked the employees for the successful job they have done during the pandemic. This does not have to stop.

I formally request that you authorize HUD Bargaining Unit Employees to continue working from home full time until this COVID surge is over. HUD is fortunate to have dedicated hardworking employees continue the mission of HUD. It's time that upper Management be dedicated and hardworking to support their employees' health and safety.

Sincerely,

Salvatore T. Viola
President
American Federation of Government Employees
HUD Council of Locals