



National Council of HUD Locals – Council 222

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES AFFILIATED WITH AFL-CIO,
WE ARE COMPRISED OF HUD LOCALS THROUGH THE U.S.

<https://www.afgecouncil222.com>

January 24, 2024

Council 222 Elections Held Today



Dear Bargaining Unit Employees:

Our Council 222 Elections are taking place. I am running as Council President. If I'm not re-elected, I want you to know I'm honored to have served as the President of the American Federation of Government Employees, National Council of HUD Locals, Council 222.

During the past three years Council 222 faced representation successfully faced several challenges during the horrific Covid-19 pandemic. This led to enhanced workplace safety measures to protect employees from the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

Today those safety measures are still in place and continue to enhance employees' performance agency wide. I am proud that under my leadership, Council 222 has successfully negotiated the first HUD Flexiplace Program, where employees are given the opportunity to work away from the office, at home and participate in enhanced online person gatherings and meetings. This involved leveraging technology for virtual meetings and outreach. Today HUD is a high performing agency in-part due to the Flexiplace Program.

I am proud that Council 222 conducted a LMF with the Agency in April of 2023. It was the first forum in over 12 years. As a result of that forum, we established the first Labor/Management Task Force that will meet regularly to improve working conditions within the Agency nationwide.

Our next Council President must maintain what was accomplished these past three years and must meet new challenges ahead. That individual must be committed to fostering solidarity, empowering workers, and ensuring that their voices are heard at every level.

Our employees who are qualified individuals with disabilities are treated horrendously by this agency. Our next Council President must fight the adverse effects employees are encountering with the Reasonable Branch's Playbook on treating every Reasonable Accommodation Request with a barrier and prejudice.

A Council President depends on his team to meet the challenges of our Union. I was blessed to have Co-Midterm Bargaining Chairs Ricardo Miranda and Jerry Gross who worked hard during every mid-

term negotiation and even assisted AFGE Locals as Council Stewards. Without both, I couldn't do it alone. I was also blessed to have Council Secretary Kimberly Horton, who worked so hard on our Council especially in her work assisting me with the Labor/Management Forum and forming our Labor/Management Task Force.

I thank Council Treasurer Crystal Bland and later Council Treasurer Desiree Miles who, with an external auditor successfully completed our audit preparations and brought our Treasury in order.

I also thank Regional Vice President Sajid Shariar for leading the Union Team on the Labor's/Management Task Force to establish better working conditions and HUD Policies' Best Practices.

I thank Council Steward Perry Casper who assisted Locals with bargaining representation.

I thank Communication Committee Chair Patty Petry for setting up our first on-line Union Library for Locals to utilize for representation.

And finally Chief Steward Antonio Carraway and Executive Vice President Lorraine Chambers who worked tirelessly with representational needs.

To say that I appreciate and admire each one of them as well as any people I left out is an understatement.

I'm confident that the good work of this Council will continue after my term has expired.

Sincerely yours,
Sal Viola, President
American Federation Government Employees
National Council of HUD Locals

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