

**From:** [Lina Nguyen](#)  
**To:** [MPClerk](#)  
**Subject:** Written Communication for 05-24-2023 Agenda Item #1  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 23, 2023 9:09:23 AM

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[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

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Good evening Council and Mayor,

My name is Lina Nguyen, and I work in the Library, as a Library Assistant. I am a proud member of SEIU 721, and I am speaking to ask that you support us the same way we support the residents of Monterey Park. We have been here throughout the pandemic but it's getting harder to keep staff here because the cost of everything is going up except our wages. We have seen record inflation recently but our wages have not kept up. Our unit is the lowest paid out of the 8 units at Monterey Park and we are facing significant challenges. We are asking you take our bargaining team's proposals seriously because they are not just so that we can support ourselves and our families, but so we can continue to do the important work for the residents of Monterey Park.

Thank you.

Lina Nguyen.

**From:** [Jose R. Garcia](#)  
**To:** [Sanchez, Jose](#); [Wong, Thomas](#); [Ngo, Vinh T.](#); [Yiu, Yvonne](#); [Lo, Henry](#)  
**Cc:** [MPClerk](#)  
**Subject:** Written Communication for 05-24-2023 Agenda Item #1  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 23, 2023 1:35:38 PM

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[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

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Dear City of Monterey Park Council Members,

I am an employee of Monterey Park, and a proud member of SEIU 721. I have been with the City for 17 years and counting. 16 of those years spent at the Library and this last year with the Fire Department. For as long as I can remember, my department at the Library was understaffed given all the patrons we served and programs we provided. For years, I was doing the job of two, sometimes three employees at a time. During COVID, I was essentially alone in my department within the Library because all our part-time employees were furloughed. Since then, the cost of living has increased significantly. I came over to the Fire Department last year to have an opportunity for growth, and I came into another department that is also understaffed where I continue to do the work of two employees. Over the years, I have seen many of my friends leave the City for higher wages elsewhere. I would like to say that the response from management regarding our contract has not been favorable. What we are asking for is not unreasonable. We would like to agree on a contract that shows we are appreciated and valued. Please consider our proposals seriously and give us what we deserve.

Thank you,

Jose Garcia  
Fire Prevention/Code Enforcement  
Fire Permit Technician

**From:** [Michael Le](#)  
**To:** [MPClerk](#)  
**Subject:** Written Communication for 05-24-2023 Agenda Item #1  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 23, 2023 2:20:17 PM

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[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

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Hello City Council and Mr. Mayor. My name is Michael Le and I work for the City of Monterey Park as a Library Technician. I am a proud member of SEIU 721 and I am imploring you to support us and our bargaining team as you decide on the budget approval for the next fiscal year.

I started working at the library as a 17-year-old high school student, **and 22 years later**, I'm still working for the City of Monterey Park. Like many of my co-workers, I grew up and went to school in Monterey Park, and now I am working for the City. There are higher-paying jobs in other cities, but we chose Monterey Park. It's a testament to how wonderful this City is and how much it means to us to serve its community.

However, with the long-lasting challenges brought on by the pandemic and inflation, we've been struggling to justify this decision. This isn't a greedy money grab. The truth of the matter is that inflation has been 7% in 2021, 6.5% in 2022, and 4.9% in 2023 and what management has offered us in our contract renegotiations is only a fraction of this. What this means is that we're essentially getting a pay cut every year because of the reduced buying power of the dollar. Even if you don't keep up with the news and inflation numbers you can feel it in your wallet. Your paycheck can't buy what it used to at the grocery store, and you have to start making tough decisions. Do you buy groceries or pay the rent? How far can I drive without filling up again? How much longer can you ignore that check engine light?

I'm asking for your support by asking management to provide us with a reasonable wage increase and the other things our bargaining team is asking for in the next fiscal budget. Otherwise, I'm afraid not only will the city be unable to attract new talent to fill vacant positions, but that experienced and essential employees who have worked here for decades, who love this city and its community, will begin to make that tough decision to part ways with Monterey Park.

Thank you,

Michael Le  
Library – Library Technician

**From:** [Deborah Takahashi](#)  
**To:** [MPClerk](#)  
**Subject:** Written Communication for 05-24-2023 Agenda Item #1  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 23, 2023 2:56:55 PM

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[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

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Good afternoon-

My name is Deborah Takhashi and I work in the Library as a Librarian. I am a proud member of SEIU 721 and I am here asking you to support what our bargaining team is asking for in negotiations. We are the lowest paid of any unit of city workers and the same small increases we had in the past simply will not cut it this time. We are losing people left and right to higher paying positions across the County.

In order to keep providing quality services to residents, we need to be able to afford to live and work here. The cost of rent, gas, and food have all gone up significantly and we are asking the City to invest in us so we can hire, train, and keep good staff here in Monterey Park. Please consider our bargaining team's proposals seriously and give us what we deserve. Thank you.

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Deborah Takahashi

Learn more about me and my book *Serving Teens with Mental Illness in the Library: a Practical Guide* at [www.deborahktakahashi.com](http://www.deborahktakahashi.com).

A house without books is like a room without windows. No man has a right to bring up children without surrounding them with books.... Children learn to read being in the presence of books.

— Horace Mann (1796-1859)

**From:** [jesse hernandez](#)  
**To:** [MPClerk](#)  
**Cc:** [MPK Eng John](#); [Sanchez, Jose](#); [Wong, Thomas](#); [Ngo, Vinh T.](#); [Lo, Henry](#); [Yiu, Yvonne](#)  
**Subject:** SEIU721 Chapter - City of Monterey Park  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 23, 2023 4:37:52 PM

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[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

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Hello,

Thank you for your attention and support. I've been working approximately 10.5yrs for the Monterey Park community. I'm the city electrician and resident, I love my job. I enjoy my civil service to the people in MPK. My feeling towards my co-workers is equal. I'm a Service Employees International Union 721 steward and one of the leaders in my chapter; Chapter President.

In this email I come to you asking that your leadership afford us a fair and meaningful contract. One that shows how much we are appreciated and one that reflects the current situation in our country; price of gas is at an all time high, cost of living has increased dramatically, rent has gone up and the city is flourishing behind the city workers' sacrifices. The city cannot retain workers, the City cannot recruit workers and the current employees are picking up the slack. They're working for two while the city budgets for vacant positions. Mayor Sanchez, council members, please  
MATCH OUR NUMBERS!

Thank you.

Jesus Hernandez, City Electrician  
217 West Riggan Street  
Monterey Park CA 91754  
626-636-6016

[Sent from AT&T Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

**From:** [joel.toro](mailto:joel.toro)  
**To:** [MPCLerk](mailto:MPCLerk)  
**Cc:** [Sanchez, Jose; twong@monterey.ca.gov](mailto:Sanchez,Jose;twong@monterey.ca.gov); [Ngo, Vinh T.](mailto:Ngo,Vinh.T.); [Yiu, Yvonne](mailto:Yiu,Yvonne); [Lo, Henry](mailto:Lo,Henry); [john.seiu.721@montereypark.ca.gov](mailto:john.seiu.721@montereypark.ca.gov)  
**Subject:** SEIU 721 Member  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 23, 2023 4:42:19 PM

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[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Good evening Mayor Sanchez, Mayor Pro Tem and Council Members. My name is Joel Toro and I work under Public Works Department, Facilities Division as a Facilities Technician. I am a proud member of SEIU 721 and I am asking for your support on what our bargaining team is asking for in negotiations. We are the lowest paid of any unit of city workers and the small increases we had in the past will not cut it this time. In my field as a Facilities Technician I frequently get calls that are emergencies related to plumbing, sewer lines that are backed up, HVAC units that are not working and other related emergencies that require me to stay after hours. I spend more time at work then what I do at home with my family, and being short staff does not help. Please consider the proposal that our union leaders have ask for and MATCH OUR NUMBERS.  
Thank you for your time.

Regards,

JOEL TORO

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

**From:** [John](#)  
**To:** [Sanchez, Jose](#); [Wong, Thomas](#); [Ngo, Vinh T.](#); [Yiu, Yvonne](#); [Lo, Henry](#); [MPClerk](#)  
**Subject:** Monterey Park - Written Communication for 05-24-2023 Agenda Item #1  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 23, 2023 4:59:28 PM

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[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Honorable Mayor and City Council Members,

We want to thank the City Council for your guidance and making this a great city to live and work in. Negotiations are a tough time for both the employee and employer, and we understand that tough decisions must be made on how fundings is spent and its impact to the city now and in the future. We ask that the City Council keeps an open mind in hearing both sides going into negotiations and making equitable decisions affecting its employees.

From 2011 – 2023, SEIU employees have only received a salary increase of 12.5%. That equates to 1% per year. We took a 10% furlough for almost 3 years and started paying 8% to CalPERS. When the city faced financial challenges, the general employees were there to assist the city. We are now asking the city to support us general employees.

General Employees echo the sentiment of the City Council in showing appreciation and gratitude for the vital services that the safety units provide to the city and its residents. We are urging the City Council not to forget the important role general employees offer its residents and the public. In comparison in MOUs throughout the last 12 years, there is a huge disparity in cost of living increases between the safety units and general employees.

It is a group effort of the general employees, safety employees, the City Council and the community to make Monterey Park a great place to live and work.

Thank you for your consideration.

John Lieu  
Public Works - Engineering  
Civil Engineering Technician  
SEIU 721