



October 6, 2009

Local 1000-Represented Employees:

There has been some anxiety and fear about taking Columbus Day as a holiday. I am asking every employee represented by Local 1000 not to come to work on October 12.

Because our new contract has not been ratified by the Legislature, the law of our great state mandates that all terms and conditions of our expired contract remain in effect. That is why Monday, October 12—Columbus Day—is a paid holiday for each of us.

I realize that the Department of Personnel Administration and your department are trying to intimidate employees into coming to work on Columbus Day. We have been threatened with adverse actions, AWOLs and everything else they can think of to scare us into working on a day that is legally and rightfully our paid holiday. If we do not stand strong now, where does it end?

Frederick Douglass said, "Find out just what any people will quietly submit to and you have the exact measure of the injustice and wrong which will be imposed on them."

I am asking that you do not quietly submit to allowing the state to take away our holiday. I know that this is a big ask in light of the governor's imposed furloughs—but it is important because this is about power. The power of this governor to continue to treat us as pawns. The power of this governor to continue to put the state's fiscal situation on our backs.

Frederick Douglass also said, "Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will." It is time for us to take back our power. We should not go to work on Columbus Day. We should tell the governor, "You will not take one more thing from us."

Governor Schwarzenegger has already put our families in jeopardy by imposing unnecessary furloughs on us. Some of us have lost or are in danger of losing our homes, because of the actions of this governor. Some of us cannot pay all of our bills each month, because of the actions of this governor.

Local 1000 spent nine grueling and tortuous months bargaining a new contract. The bargaining teams for all nine units did an exceptional job responding to the

YVONNE R. WALKER  
President

M. CORA OKUMURA  
Vice President  
and Secretary-Treasurer

JIM HARD  
Vice President  
for Organizing/Representation

KATHLEEN B. COLLINS  
Vice President for Bargaining

SERVICE EMPLOYEES  
INTERNATIONAL UNION

1808 14th Street  
Sacramento, CA 95811  
(916) 554-1200  
(866) 471-SEIU (7348)  
(916) 554-1275 (fax)  
[www.seiu1000.org](http://www.seiu1000.org)



October 6, 2009

Page 2

economic conditions at the time. It was a fair and good contract, not only for Local 1000-represented employees, but also for the people of the State of California, while still saving the state hundreds of millions of dollars.

The governor chose not to advocate for the new contract in the Legislature. In fact, this governor—unlike any governor in the past—has said that if the new contract is ratified by the Legislature he will not sign it into law.

I realize that asking you to stand up for your rights is a scary and fearful thing in light of the threats and intimidation that you are facing. But, I am asking that you push past your fear and take a stand.

Our union is only as strong as its parts—you and me. I am asking you to stand with me on Columbus Day and say, "Enough." Let us tell this governor that he will not take one more thing away from us. Let us all take what is rightfully and legally ours by staying home on Columbus Day.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Yvonne R. Walker". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

YVONNE R. WALKER  
President