

MEMORANDUM

TO: Union Members
FROM: Steven F. Smith
DATE: December 16, 2008
SUBJECT: United Healthcare

As you know, Appendix C in our Collective Bargaining Agreement provides a detailed plan description of our negotiated medical plans and also provides that any alternate medical coverage offered by the City of Providence must be deemed to be equivalent by the membership or a neutral arbitrator. Since the City's announcement in October that the health administration contract was awarded to United Healthcare, the City administration has been remiss in providing the unions with timely, detailed information as it relates to plan description, plan network and plan protocols.

Consequently, as I have previously reported, the six unions representing City of Providence employees are prepared to vigorously challenge the City's decision to transfer the administration of our medical coverage to United Healthcare. Hence, on Monday, December 15, 2008, each union filed a petition in Superior Court to obtain a temporary restraining order to prevent the City from transferring the administration of our healthcare benefits to United Healthcare effective January 1.

An evidentiary hearing before Superior Court Judge Mark Pfeiffer is scheduled for Monday, December 22, 2008 at which time Judge Pfeiffer will decide whether or not to uphold our request to stop the transition on January 1. To strengthen our case before Judge Pfeiffer, it would be beneficial to present testimony from members whose medical care may be compromised due to the fact that their physician(s) are not part of the United Healthcare provider network. **Any member who is willing to testify before Judge Pfeiffer should contact the Union office no later than Friday morning.**

Rest assured that I will be in constant communication with the membership as details unfold. In the meantime, the union office staff is readily available to address any questions you may have.