



*Office of Mayor Lawrence J.  
Morrissey*

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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## **AFSCME UNION RATIFIES AGREEMENT TO BYPASS WAGE INCREASE IN 2011**

Rockford, IL. December 20, 2010 – Members of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees Local 1058 and 1058 B (AFSCME) have tonight ratified an agreement between the City of Rockford and their members to forgo a general wage increase for 2011. City leaders were impressed with the union’s strong support to the wage agreement with 100% of the AFSCME B group voting their approval and 85% of the larger AFSCME group also voting in support.

The agreement, which affects approximately 430 city employees, many of whom are found in the Public Works, Community Development, and Human Services Department, will allow the city to maintain the current level of wages for roughly one-third of their employees. More importantly, these positions which take care of many of the customer service and operational functions for Rockford citizens, can maintain its current workforce without laying-off AFSCME personnel.

Rockford Mayor Larry Morrissey tonight recognized the importance of the agreement and thanked AFSCME employees. “I greatly appreciate the cooperation and support from our AFSCME employees. This is a great way to help the city balance the budget and to support our taxpayers.”

In addition to the concession on wages, the City and AFSCME agreed that there would be no change in premium contributions or deductibles for the Health Plan in 2011, that the City would include AFSCME in an early retirement program, if one were offered. The city also agreed to a change in classification for 4 (four) AFSCME employees.

Leaders in for AFSCME employees were diligent in the negotiation process and worked to maintain a high standard for the delivery of city services for Rockford residents. “During these tough economic times, our objective is to preserve jobs and to hopefully fill vacant positions so that we can restore the level of services that our citizens are accustomed to receiving,” stated Gary Cacciapaglia, AFSCME Union President.

The city and the AFSCME union will begin negotiation for the successor agreement at the end of 2011.

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