



September 19, 2022

Dear Sisters and Brothers of Local 1549:

Today, AFSCME President Lee Saunders placed Clerical Administrative Employees, New York, New York Local 1549, AFSCME, AFL-CIO under administratorship. This means that the national union has assumed responsibility for the day-to-day affairs of the local. President Saunders has appointed me to serve as the Administrator of Local 1549 and AFSCME International Union Field Coordinators Benjamin Borges-Hernandez and Jozette Dowdell, and AFSCME District Council 37 Director of Field Operations, Barbara Terrelonge, to serve as the Deputy Administrators to carry out these responsibilities, effective immediately.

The decision to place an AFSCME affiliate under an Administratorship is never made lightly. In this case, a recent audit conducted by the International Union found serious deficiencies and numerous violations of AFSCME's Financial Standards Code.

In his letter sent today to the officers of Local 1549, President Saunders stated:

"In my opinion an emergency situation exists in Clerical Administrative Employees, New York, New York Local 1549, AFSCME, AFL-CIO, in that dissipation or loss of the funds or assets of the local is threatened and the local is acting in violation of the International Constitution. Therefore, in accordance with Article IX, Section 37 of the International Constitution, I am placing AFSCME Local 1549 under administratorship, pending notice and hearing, effective immediately."

When an administratorship is imposed, the officers and executive board members are removed from their positions and no longer have authority to act on behalf of the Local.

**Meeting the needs of all Local 1549 members is the Administratorship team's top priority.**

We will implement protocols and procedures designed to:

- Protect your rights as members;
- Ensure there is fiscal accountability, responsibility and transparency;
- Improve the efficiency of the local's operations, including your representation in the workplace.

Union representatives will continue to help you resolve job-related issues, and I will be meeting with the chairs of each chapter to get their input and assess their current needs. In addition, all chapter officers will remain in office and continue in their role as I may direct.

I know we all want a strong, transparent and effective union, and together we can make that happen.

In solidarity,

James Howell  
AFSCME Local 1549 Administrator  
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CC: Lee Saunders, AFSCME President  
Henry Garrido, DC 37 Executive Director  
Benjamin Borges-Hernandez, Local 1549 Deputy Administrator  
Jozette Dowdell, Local 1549 Deputy Administrator  
Barbara Terrelonge, Local 1549 Deputy Administrator

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