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Mayor Fox,

In response to your latest UFCW Contract Update, I find your characterization of the events that have unfolded over the last 19 months extremely misleading. On December 1, 2022, the Borough of Bradley Beach set the tone of these negotiations by presenting an 8-page document that contained extremely disrespectful proposals designed to reduce or eliminate current benefits enjoyed by dedicated and hard-working UFCW members that serve the community. It was made clear then and remains true today, this is unacceptable. Our committee only had a short list of proposals to address existing workplace issues and economic increases based off current trends and the cost of living.

Negotiations were slow and stalled because of the Borough's refusal to withdraw proposals that would gut workplace benefits already earned by unit members. These items have previously been budgeted for by the Borough. Only after UFCW members made the stagnant negotiations public at the council meeting held on February 28, 2024, did you meet with the UFCW committee. I was present and we were prepared to negotiate a new and reasonable agreement. Unfortunately, the Borough was not willing to negotiate. You are correct that fact finding through PERC is scheduled for August 13, 2024. However, the Borough's insistence on pursuing fact finding is just another stall tactic as it is by no means a legal impediment to negotiating a fair contract. A fact finder may only give suggestions as ultimately Borough Council must approve any agreement, hence the reason that we've requested Council to participate in negotiations like they have in years past.

Stop stalling and get back to the bargaining table. The UFCW committee is prepared to meet on the following dates: July 19, July 23, July 24 and July 25. Let me know what date(s) work for you.

Sincerely,

Daniel Ross, Jr.
President