

# TEAMSTERS LOCAL 700 - FIGHTING FOR CITY EMPLOYEES



## Fall 2020

**RAMON D. WILLIAMS, PRES. | ROBERT V. SANTANA JR, SEC/TREAS | ANTHONY L. MCGEE, V.P.**

### **As the City of Chicago Faces Budget Cuts, Teamsters Take Action**

Chicago is facing a budget shortfall resulting in the economic shutdown. As the second wave of Covid-19 hits, we can expect to face even more cutbacks.

Our City Workers provide crucial services which allow our city to function safely and efficiently during this ongoing crisis.

Our members keep the city clean and safe at the risk of their own health. Their skills, training, and dedication are critical to keep the city's infrastructure running.

Help protect city jobs. Say THANK YOU to our Streets and Sanitation members and find out how you can take further action by saying 'no' to harmful cuts. Please click on the link below.

<https://www.protectorservices.com/thank-you-streets-and-san>



Members of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters are very civic-minded: seven percent of Teamsters are also Veterans. On Veterans Day, we honor those of you who have gone the extra mile by serving in the United States Armed Forces. In a year when simply leaving the house feels like a battle, Teamsters Local 700 would like to acknowledge all who served both past and present. You are elite members of this family and we salute you.

**Stay Strong. Stay Safe. Stay United.**

**WWW.TEAMSTERSLOCAL700.COM | email us; [info@teamsterslocal700.com](mailto:info@teamsterslocal700.com) |  
Phone 1-847-939-9700 | Join us on [Facebook.com/TeamstersLocal700.com](https://www.facebook.com/TeamstersLocal700.com) |**



## Fight Workplace Fatigue: Get More Sleep!

Teamsters are some of the most hardest-working people in the world. But in order to stay safe, healthy, and happy, we must take care of ourselves. -And the importance of sleep is often overlooked.

Decreased alertness due to worker fatigue can cause mistakes, injuries, and accidents. Covid stress, longer shifts, extended hours, and general worry is the number one cause of sleeplessness.

An adult needs 7-9 hours of sleep, with small periods of rest throughout the day. The National Sleep Foundation says that you can't "catch up" on sleep, so a consistent routine is the most beneficial. Here are some things you can try:

- \*Go to bed the same time each night, even on the weekends (if possible).
- \*Avoid stressful activities before sleep.
- \*Make your bedroom comfortable with temperature control and decor.
- \*Ask your doctor if any of your medications contribute to sleeplessness.
- \*Don't exercise or eat a big meal close to bedtime.
- \*Don't go to bed unless you're truly sleepy. "Trying to sleep" can make it harder to fall asleep.

## Streets & Sanitation Snow Prep is Well Underway

As autumn rolls around, snow prep begins. Every vehicle must have enough gas and oil; the hydraulic systems need to be working properly; and of course, the plow and salt spinner must be fully operational. -And everything must be ready by mid-October.

Snow removal isn't the only thing our drivers do. They're often responsible for getting the right people there to help when time is crucial. If they see someone stranded, they pull over and offer assistance; if they see a fire or someone who needs medical attention, they call it in.

Driver Jose Rios (pictured) takes satisfaction in the role Streets and Sanitation trucks have in allowing the City to continue running. His favorite part of the job is keeping the streets clean so residents can get from point A to point B. "It's a huge rush. We all get a lot of beeps and Thank Yous."

## Listen to the Second Installment of Teamster Talk!

### Episode 02: "Si Se Puede"

This episode of Teamster Talk features Denise Alcantar (pictured below), Union Member with the City of Chicago Streets and Sanitation, speaking with Ramon D. Williams, President of Teamsters Local 700. This candid interview considers the challenges that essential workers and union members face during Covid-19, and how the new leadership is handling these difficult times.





## Overtime Win for Fleet Services

Attendant George Muhammad was passed over for overtime. Management had denied his grievance at Step 1, so Local 700 had it moved to Step 2. At the grievance meeting, Business Agent Harold Irving, Mr. Muhammad, and three witnesses were successful in their argument and Mr. Muhammad received 10 hours of double-time pay.

"I wasn't nervous, I don't want to adjust the truth; I just want to tell the truth. As long as I'm doing that, I'm fine. I just did what I was supposed to do, I let Irving do his job." Said Mr. Muhammad.

What's best about being a Teamster? "Representation," said Mr. Muhammad. "I'm impressed by the speed of Local 700's support and ecstatic that it happened so fast."

## In Memoriam: Streets and Sanitation Member Gibron Mills

On October 14th, a memorial service was held for Gibron Mills, a Driver for the City of Chicago, Streets and Sanitation, Loop Ops. A Chicago native, Mr. Mills is survived by his wife, Lavonne, and his six children. Mr. Mills was a talented and generous man who had many friends. He will be tremendously missed. He has been described as a "great father and life of the party" and an "honorable, loyal guardian" who "always put others first."

The service for Mr. Mills was a drive-by memorial, which began at 93rd and Harbor Drive and proceeded past 9316 S. Baltimore Avenue.

Along with friends and family, a great deal of support was shown by Mr. Mills' colleagues and fellow Teamsters, who took the time to pay their respects by joining in the procession of over 100 vehicles, including many Streets and Sanitation trucks as well as cars belonging to friends and family.

Teamsters Local 700 is proud to have had Brother Mills within our ranks. Our heart goes out to his family and friends.

## Airport Drivers Complete Passenger Endorsements

Drivers from O'Hare and Midway have completed their Passenger Endorsement tests. Local 700 officers and training specialists were there to lend assistance, including Business Agent Hector Hernandez, along with Equipment Training Specialists Wilson Vasquez and Ignacio Garcia.

The Passenger Endorsement is required for all professional drivers who transport members of the public. The Endorsement ensures that drivers can safely operate a large vehicle while they assist and care for passenger wants and needs. We congratulate our drivers, who are essential workers providing the very best service.

