

June 18, 2013

City of Gautier Council Members:

Good evening Mayor Fortenberry and fellow Council Members. My name is James Flynn and I am here as a representative of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers on behalf of Local Union 733 in Pascagoula, MS. The Gautier Police Department has approached IBEW LU 733 about representation through a collective bargaining agreement with the City and has an overwhelming majority of support. As you all know, this is a matter that must be voted on by you, the Council, and we urge that you grant them recognition.

The Police Department is not asking for this in order to obtain a pay raise or eccentric conditions, but rather to secure what they have right now. Having a collective bargaining agreement provides each person with a voice to address concerns or issues that may arise without fear of reprimand and allows them a sense of security in their jobs. Let us not forget that these are not just City employees, but the people who lay their lives on the line every day to uphold the law and provide protection to the Citizens of this City. It is our hope that you take this into sincere consideration as few of us here can truly understand their circumstances. Could you, or your families, deal with the stress of you waking up day in and day out not knowing if you will see your loved ones at the end of the day; my family could not. These individuals do this daily for your protection and right now all they ask in return is recognition to give them peace of mind.

There are many Officers throughout the United States of America who have been granted recognition and are currently working under a collective bargaining agreement, including many throughout the great State of Mississippi.

With this being said, you may wonder how this may benefit the City of Gautier. One possible benefit is that the IBEW has its own insurance plan that is underwritten by Anthem Insurance Companies, Inc. also known as Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield. The Local has been working with the International Office to determine if we can possibly provide a better insurance, or at minimal a comparable insurance, at a lower cost than you are currently paying. While we do know this is a possibility, not a guarantee, we are committed to assisting in this effort.

The Department truly wants to help the City, the Council and its Citizens. As elected officials, they understand the fiduciary responsibilities you have to the tax payers of this City which is why we must reiterate that they only want to secure what they currently have.

Thank you.

