

**From:** [Stegman, Matthew](#)  
**To:** [Austin, Natawna \(City Council\)](#); [Currin, Marguerite \(City Council\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Thompson, Nikki A. \(City Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: 21-0050R museum workers right to unionize- Support  
**Date:** Monday, October 18, 2021 1:18:31 PM

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For the bill file on 21-0050R

-----Original Message-----

From: Danielle Horetsky <[horetsky.dc@gmail.com](mailto:horetsky.dc@gmail.com)>  
Sent: Wednesday, October 13, 2021 8:13 PM  
To: Testimony <[Testimony@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:Testimony@baltimorecity.gov)>  
Subject: 21-0050R museum workers right to unionize- Support

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Dear Council Members,

I support wholeheartedly the Walters employees request to unionize. I worked at the Walters from 2009-2012 during the transition in leadership from Gary Vikan to Julia Marciari Alexander. I can attest to the stark change in leadership from a collaborative and supportive one to a hierarchical and opaque one. It was a toxic workplace, and even though it was my dream to work there I left. The leadership treats its staff as interchangeable objects, replaceable and of little value. Ironic given the priceless objects in their care.

The impacts of a top down leadership structure are creating impediments to the ability for workers to thoughtfully steward this city's collection and providing services to its residents. It is imperative that the city council give a voice to the staff who only want to ensure that they are able to do their jobs. The employees need to be given a voice and an opportunity to bargain for their needs, many basic like clear communication when toxic chemicals impact their workspace. They have attempted other avenues of providing constructive feedback and making structural changes, but leadership has been clear that they will only consider the views from voices with power behind them. A union provides that for the staff.

Sincerely,  
Danielle Horetsky  
District 5, Sulgrave Ave

Sent from my iPhone