

Security, fast food workers march for better wages

Apr 15, 2015, 5:22am PDT

Security and fast food workers will march from Crocker Park to City Hall on Wednesday to generate support in their fight for better wages.



Kathy Robertson- Senior Staff Writer- *Sacramento Business Journal*

Security and fast food workers will march from Crocker Park to City Hall on Wednesday to generate support in their fight for better wages.

The rally will include a stop at 400 Capitol Mall to call attention to contract negotiations between Service Employees International Union-Service Workers West and five security firms.

The union organized about 300 Sacramento security officers last year. Negotiations to nail down a first contract started in early February. The security companies include Securitas USA, Universal Protection Services, AlliedBarton, ABM Security Services and G4S. Some local officers at Guardsmark will also be covered by the contract.

The union and security companies are bargaining over six major issues: wages, paid holidays, paid vacation, paid sick leave, health and welfare and duration of the contract.

“The major concern is that these officers will get fair wages and access to affordable health care,” SEIU organizer Theadros Gashaw said. “Many make minimum wage, although pay can vary. One site may pay \$11 an hour and decent benefits, but those down the street get paid less,” he added. “People understand that wages haven’t kept pace with inflation for years.”

A lot of issues have been settled, the two sides agree. The contract is modeled after similar agreements between the union and security business owners in San Francisco and Los Angeles.

The two sides are close to agreement on the three days of paid sick leave required by state law, but wages and benefits still need to be hammered out.

“My clients have to bid for jobs and increased costs will be passed onto building owners and tenants,” said [Robert Rediger](#), a Sacramento attorney who represents ABM and Universal Protective Services. The next bargaining session is not scheduled until May 12.