



**SEIU 517M**  
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

The **E-Former**

The Official Electronic Newsletter of  
SEIU Local 517M

## January 2021

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### Detroit Police Crime Analysts Vote to Unionize with 517M

By Dominic Barbato, SEIU Staff

After a long campaign full of challenges and delays from both the employer and due to the Covid-19 crisis, Crime Analysts working for the Detroit Police Department made their voice heard and voted to become the newest members of SEIU Local 517M. Analyst Jackie Roberts said, "To me, having a union means a stronger chance at equity and fairness, through negotiations."

The first worksite leaders approached 517M about representation in January of 2020, during what would have been the beginnings of their campaign, the Covid-19 crisis hit creating a major setback and hurdle to a group trying to newly organize. Overnight, the campaign became a virtual one, with Zoom calls replacing the usual organizing committee meetings and member leaders needing to not only collect authorization cards, but make sure they were scanned and turned in electronically.

They filed for their union in July, only to have the city initially refuse to consent to an election and forcing them into hearing. As the delays mounted and the weeks went by, a large amount of new crime analysts, who had no idea there was a union drive, were hired. Despite having limited access to the worksite and to their new coworkers due to the pandemic, the analysts voted overwhelmingly to join the ranks of 517M.

They now turn their efforts towards securing their rights under a contract. "To me, having a union means job stability; fair wages and step increases; fair promotions; fair seniority; and protection from retaliation, it means we finally have a voice!", said Analyst Chris Magnan.

Welcome to the SEIU Local 517M family!

**STAY SAFE — STAY INFORMED**

[www.seiu517m.org](http://www.seiu517m.org)

[Twitter at: @SEIU517M](https://twitter.com/SEIU517M)

[Facebook at: SEIULocal517M](https://www.facebook.com/SEIULocal517M)

## Governor Whitmer Makes Civil Service Commission Appointment

Governor Whitmer has appointed Nick Ciaramitaro to the Michigan Civil Service Commission. Nick previously work for AFSCME Council 25 and has been a friend of SEIU since his days in the Michigan Legislature. SEIU supported his appointment to this position and believes he will be a fair and balanced commissioner that supports collective bargaining and the rights of workers.



Below is the official announcement from the Governor's Office:

*Nick Ciaramitaro, of Roseville, is the retired director of legislation and policy at Michigan AFSCME Council 25. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Detroit and a Juris Doctor from Wayne State University. Mr. Ciaramitaro is appointed to represent Democrats for a term commencing January 1, 2021 and expiring December 31, 2028. He succeeds James Barrett whose term expires December 31, 2020.*

*The Civil Service Commission is empowered by Article XI, Section 5 of the Michigan Constitution of 1963 to classify all positions in the classified service according to their respective duties and responsibilities, fix rates of compensation for all classes of positions, and approve or disapprove disbursements for all personal services. The Commission also determines by competitive examination and performance exclusively on the basis of merit, efficiency and fitness the qualifications of all candidates for positions in the classified service, makes rules and regulations covering all personnel transactions, and regulates all conditions of employment in the classified service.*

*This appointment is not subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.*

## Retiree Member Appointed to the State of Michigan Retirement Board

By Dave Corrie, SEIU Staff

Former SEIU Local 517M Scientific and Engineering Unit President David Berridge was appointed by Governor Whitmer to serve on the State of Michigan Retirement Board. David has continued his membership as a Retiree Member of SEIU Local 517M and we supported his candidacy for this position. David will bring an employee-focused perspective and support for current employees and future retirees. We congratulate David on this appointment!



Below is the official announcement from the Governor's Office:

*David A. Berridge, of Dimondale, is a retired transportation planning specialist for the Michigan Department of Transportation. He holds a Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in Civil Engineering from Michigan State University. Mr. Berridge is appointed to represent a member or retirant of the State Employees' Retirement System for a term commencing January 1, 2021 and expiring December 31, 2024. He succeeds Matthew Fedorchuk whose term expires December 31, 2020.*

*The State of Michigan Retirement Board was created by Executive Order No. 2015-13, and consolidated the State Employees' Retirement System Board, the Judges' Retirement System Board, and the Military Retirement Provisions. Housed in the Department of Technology, Management, and Budget, in the Office of Retirement Services, the Retirement Board will provide oversight of the three systems that service nearly 88,000 active and retired employees.*

*This appointment is not subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.*

## Click & Save Member Only Benefit Changes

By Dave Corrie, SEIU Staff

In response to valuable feedback from our members, SEIU is replacing the SEIU Member Benefit (SEIUMB) Click & Save program with the new SEIUMB Discount Marketplace. This change should give you a smoother, more rewarding online shopping experience.

SEIU Click & Save will be available through January 18, 2021. If you have any unused WOWPoints in your SEIU Click & Save account, please make sure you redeem them in time.

Under the new SEIU Discount Marketplace, instead of earning points, you'll earn cash back when you shop and save on brand-name merchandise from over 2,500 top retailers, online stores, and local restaurants and shops.

SEIU Member Benefits will send you information very soon about this new shopping benefit. In the meantime, head over to SEIU Click & Save to redeem your unused WOWPoints before they go away.

## Latest COVID-19 Information is Available on our Website

By Dave Corrie, SEIU Staff

SEIU Local 517M is working diligently to keep you informed with the latest information on the spread of COVID-19 and the steps taken to contain the virus from the Governor's office and SEIU International. We have dedicated a section of our website as a resource to members containing this information. Please keep checking back for the [latest information on our website](#).

## Local 517M is Turning 40 in 2021!

By Dave Corrie, SEIU Staff

SEIU Local 517M is turning 40 years old in 2021! We began representing state employees and today we represent state, school and local government employees across Michigan. We will begin a series this year of looking back at our history and how we became the SEIU Local 517M of today.

### The Beginning

In 1977, the Michigan Civil Service Commission finalized the process for state employee collective bargaining and for organizing bargaining units that hadn't already determined an exclusive representative. The Scientific and Engineering unit was an unrepresented unit.

The Michigan Society of State Engineers and Professional Affiliates, then a Limited Recognition Organization of both Non-Supervisory and Supervisory employees which started voluntary representation of employees in the 1960's, won the representation election.



After becoming the exclusive representative, the Michigan Professional Employees Society (MPES) was born in 1981 as the exclusive representative for all non-supervisory state employees assigned into the Scientific and Engineering Bargaining Unit. That early membership was made up of just over 1,500 scientists and engineers working for the State of Michigan.

The Scientific and Engineering bargaining unit employees ratified their first collective bargaining agreement in 1982.

Pictured above is the MPES Board of Directors discussing the first contract in October, 1982.