

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT REFORM OF BINDING ARBITRATION IN ILLINOIS

WHEREAS, collective bargaining works best when both sides are equally matched; and

WHEREAS, current binding arbitration law in Illinois for public safety employees is undermining collective bargaining by giving undue power to arbitrators and creating an unsustainable burden on local governments and local taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, the City of East St. Louis, Illinois was required to grant wages to police in line with other cities but not affordable by East St. Louis, and as a result had to lay off police officers; and

WHEREAS, the City of Champaign, Illinois was required by a Wisconsin-based arbitrator to re-hire a police officer who had been fired for abusive behavior to citizens, and who had cost the city hundreds of thousands of dollars in lawsuit settlements; and

WHEREAS, we believe that current proposals to weaken collective bargaining by allowing local governments to declare bankruptcy and void labor contracts is not in the long-term interests of the people of Illinois; and

WHEREAS, we believe a better alternative--widely favored by local governments throughout Illinois--would be to reform the binding arbitration process and provide a more sustainable system of collective bargaining;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF URBANA, ILLINOIS, as follows:

We request that the Illinois legislature carefully consider the costs and benefits of revising binding arbitration as follows:

1. Rather than forcing the arbitrator to adopt either management's or the union's last offer of settlement, allow the arbitrator the ability to choose an intermediate position.
2. Require the arbitrator to give greatest weight to the financial ability of the unit of government to meet the costs of the settlement, rather than basing the decision primarily on what other governments pay.
3. Remove the power of an arbitrator to overturn a decision to terminate a police officer or firefighter for due cause unless the Police Chief or Fire Chief has clearly overstepped the bounds of his/her authority.

PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL this ____ day of _____, _____.

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSTAINS:

Phyllis D. Clark, City Clerk

APPROVED BY THE MAYOR this ____ day of _____, _____.

Laurel Lunt Prussing, Mayor