

PEF DOL LABOR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
January 26, 2021
Minutes

PEF	MANAGEMENT
Scarlett Ahmed – co-chair	Geoff von Bieberstein – co-chair
Robert Wright	Ed Vargas – Senior Advisor to the Commissioner
Kevin Jones	Rebecca Secor - recorder
Mike Singleton	Tracie Covey – UIAB Director
Jose Medina	
Danielle Freeman	
Helen Esposito	
Lisa Deluca	

A. Introductions

B. Old business

1. **Review of previous minutes** – These minutes have been adopted and posted to the intranet.

C. New business

1. Discussion of contents in recent PEF letter to DOL

- a) **Reporting** – currently there is about 38% of staff who are working from home 100%, 19% - 20% of staff report to their office 100% and the remainder are split reporting. We are currently seeking to do some hiring in UI and many of this staff will be remote hires. We have approved hundreds of COVID accommodations who are subject to renewal in the next 90 days.

- b) **UIAB & ASO staff who need to report** – The union states that the ALJ and ASO staff are still concerned that they're forced to report most of the time due to COVID. NYC is especially concerned due to the commute. The staff would just like to know that there is movement toward a digital hearing process. Management states that this is not an issue of not wanting to move in a digital hearing direction, the problem is that we're not quite there due to the technological hurdles and the previous resistance to the change in the technology. Management is currently working with ITS to create electronic solutions. Some aspects are currently cost prohibited but they are working together to move it forward. Management is doing what they can to keep staff safe with daily

cleaning and moving staff around and spreading them out. Most staff have their own space and they have had a very minimum amount of positive cases so they feel that they are doing everything they can to keep staff safe while in the office. PEF states that ALJ's are complaining and feel they can do this work in a hybrid manner. Management states that there just isn't the budget to put the system in place to make it possible for the ALJ's to do their hearings at home. They are working on a pilot program that has been in the works since May. They believe it will launch in March but there's no definite date. When they have an update, they will provide that information to the union.

PEF states that a memo was sent out regarding the remote workday stating that it will now be based on operational need and if a remote day falls on a holiday, they will still have to report for the other four days. Management states that previous to the memo some managers were allowing staff to switch days if their remote day fell on a holiday. After reviewing this, it didn't make sense to allow this to continue when having a specific remote day is how we are keeping staff density reduced on a daily basis. Management is taking all of these issues into consideration.

- 2. Update on 199 Church St. move** – The current staff is largely working from home while the move from Varick to Church St. takes place. Space will be available for our staff on the 3rd, 4th & 5th floors long term. Currently only the 5th floor is ready. There will roughly be 80 workstations available (5th floor) and staff will work their one day a week in a rotational pattern. No more than 40 out of the 80 workstations would be occupied on a given day. All workstations will be wiped down and sanitized every night. There is a walk through scheduled with the union on Monday, February 1st at 10:30 a.m. Church street has their own screening procedure for the building which staff will have to comply with. It's similar to the DOL facility entry screening.
- 3. COOP – Communicable Disease Plan** – This has been drafted and sent to the Executive Chamber for review. Once they return it with their revisions, we can share it with PEF. There is no timeframe on when we expect to have it returned but management will reach out to the union when it does and schedule a time to speak about it.

D. Set Next meeting – Meeting has been set for March 23, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.