



Contact: Brad Asay
(801) 726-4613
info@afscmeutah1004.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 4/21/23

Salt Lake City Public Library workers seek to become first library union in Utah

Salt Lake City – Workers across the Salt Lake City Public Library (SLCPL) system plan to officially announce their unionization efforts with AFSCME Local 1004 during a press conference scheduled for April 24 at 3 p.m. outside of the Main Library branch. The library workers, who are organizing under the name Salt Lake City Public Library Workers United (SLCPL Workers United), would cover approximately 345 employees at SLCPL’s nine branches throughout Salt Lake City and be the first library workers union in the state.

According to union organizers, workers are seeking to address longstanding issues at the library such as safety, exclusion of staff in the decision-making process, lack of transparency, wages that fall below the national average, inaccessible and expensive healthcare and more.

“As staff, we are paid low wages during a time of rising rent and inflation. We – who serve the public, who help keep our branches clean and safe, who directly implement and feel the effects of every policy – deserve to have real input in the decision-making processes that affect us and the public, and we deserve to be compensated appropriately for it,” said Jacob Rosenzweig, a librarian at the Marmalade branch. “A union can help us achieve that.”

Yutzil Valerie Roman, an associate librarian at Sprague branch, sees the union as an opportunity to build networks of support for workers to feel respected, seen and heard. “Our union will redistribute power into the hands of those of us that keep the libraries open and available to the public,” said Roman.

Currently, SLCPL workers are the only group of public employees in the city who are excluded from recognition and access to collective bargaining rights. AFSCME Local 1004 represents public employees across the state of Utah and represents Salt Lake City employees in collective bargaining.

Press are invited to meet with union representatives and workers at 3:30 p.m. on the South side of the library. Union representatives and supporters plan to attend and speak during public comment time at the library’s Board meeting at 4 p.m. to urge the Board to voluntarily recognize the workers union and pass a collective bargaining resolution.

To support SLCPL Workers United, [click here](#) to add your name to their community letter of support.

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