

**From:** Metro Washington Council AFL-CIO <streetheat@dclabor.org>

**To:** csimpson1101@aol.com

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# UNION CITY

METRO WASHINGTON COUNCIL NEWS, AFL-CIO

## TODAY'S LABOR NEWS

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## ON THE LINE

**Today, May 11 11A:**

[Women's Health & Wellness Event](#)

**Today, May 11 6P:**

[Best View in DC: AFL-CIO Balcony Reception For The Employee Free Choice Act](#)

Monday, May 11, 2009

**STEPPING OUT FOR THE FREE CHOICE ACT:** Step out on the AFL-CIO balcony tonight, hear great music, and help ramp up labor's push to pass the Employee Free Choice Act at a reception at the AFL-CIO.

Tickets are \$100, and all proceeds support the Turn Around America Fund to keep ads running that



spread the word about the Employee Free Choice Act

"and counter the corporate lies and distortions," says AFL-CIO Online Mobilization Coordinator Marc Laitin. "We can't afford to let up. We need you to dig deep and help out. America's workers deserve the freedom to form unions and bargain for a better life." [Click here](#) to RSVP. The reception runs 6-8P. - photo: workers and labor allies rally for the Employee Free Choice Act on Capitol Hill in February; photo by Adam Wright

**"FUNK FENTY" CONCERT UNITES COMMUNITY:** Stormy weather was no deterrent for more than 50 activists who turned out for the Funk Fenty concert and rally Thursday afternoon. Participants came from a broad range of issues and organizations, but were united in their anger at DC Mayor Adrian Fenty. "We all have one thing in common," said Brian Anders of Empower DC. "We have been used, we have been lied to, we have been taken advantage of." Empower DC's People's Property Campaign, which organized the event, has been working for years to halt the give-away of public land to private developers. "We elected a Mayor to serve all the people," Anders added. "Not just the people with the



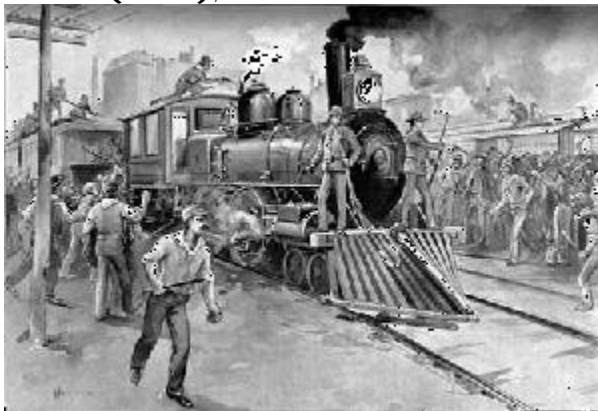
big checkbooks." Other speakers included workers from the DC Department of Parks and Recreation, the DC Public Schools, and the Community Services Agency of the Department of Mental Health, who spoke to the impact of budget cuts, union-busting and privatization on workers and communities. Roger Newell, chair of DC Jobs with Justice, ran down a litany of recent attacks, including planned layoffs of hundreds of school crossing guards, parks and rec workers, and classroom aides. "Mayor Fenty, I'm glad you're a runner," said Newell said. "Because as a result of your attacks on working families, you are about to be run out of office." - report/photo by Mackenzie Baris

**GOT POSTERS?** The AFL-CIO and DC Labor FilmFest are looking for any visual material - posters, still etc - relating to several labor films for an upcoming exhibit at the AFL-CIO. If you've got anything from Strike (Eisenstein, 1925), Proud Valley (with Paul Robeson) and 10,000 Black Men Named George, please email Rex Weil at [rexweil@msn.com](mailto:rexweil@msn.com).

**LABOR ON THE MOVE: CRAIG SIMPSON'S FATHER PASSES:** Longtime ATU 689 and COPE activist Craig Simpson's father passed away May 2. Born in Barre, VT, William L. Simpson joined with the granite workers strikers at the age of 15 to battle the National Guard and later supported the union's successful strike in 1938. Simpson worked in the stone sheds for more than a year before deciding silicosis was too great a threat to his health and went on to a long career with the Veterans Administration in Washington as a budget analyst. A memorial will be held at the Hines-Rinaldi Funeral Home, 11800 New Hampshire Ave, Silver Spring, MD on May 14 from 6-8P. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to [St. Jude Children's Research Hospital](#).



**TODAY'S LABOR HISTORY:** Nationwide railway strike begins at Pullman, Ill. 260,000 railroad workers ultimately joined the strike to protest wage cuts by the Pullman Palace Car Co. (1894); More info & ammo for unionists is available online from [Union Communication Services](#).



- photo courtesy IBEW Local 46 [Website](#)

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Story suggestions, event announcements, campaign reports, Letters to the Editor and other material are welcome, subject to editing for clarity and space, and should be directed to:

Editor: Chris Garlock  
Assistant Editor: Adam Wright  
[streetheat@dclabor.org](mailto:streetheat@dclabor.org)  
Voice: 202-974-8153  
Fax: 202-974-8152

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