



Correctional Policy Committee members stand at attention during a press conference as CPC president John Hillyard reads their list of demands to keep correctional workers safe.

Corrections officers mourn, take action

When our correctional brother Joseph Gomm was killed by an inmate in July, the nation mourned with us.

The grieving isn't over. But it has cemented a determination to make sure that Gomm did not die in vain. The fatal attack on him at MCF-Stillwater was part of a string of assaults by inmates on our AFSCME brothers and sisters that has skyrocketed since January, following years of understaffing.

"We have been going to the Legislature every year for a decade now, every single week the Legislature is in session, asking for more correctional officers," AFSCME Council 5 Correctional Policy Committee president John Hillyard said at a press conference with the entire CPC leadership behind him. "We are not asking for more correctional officers and staffing any more – we are demanding it."

Along with demanding more correctional officers and workers through a clean, stand-alone bill, the CPC is insisting the Department of Corrections take these stopgap measures immediately:

- Fill vacant staff positions.
- Return all officers working out of class to their jobs as correctional officers.
- Stop allowing MINNCOR to dictate whether they'll keep the industrial shops open when a facility is short-staffed.
- Stop forcing staff to work overtime, rather than addressing and filling staff shortages.

The CPC also is demanding changes to the DOC's inmate disciplinary system. The Department started a stepdown program for inmates in segregation, even though correctional officers in AFSCME warned there wasn't adequate staffing.

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Vote in Primary Today

Today's the day - the primary election has finally arrived!

Head over to your local polling place before **8 p.m. Tuesday**.

Vote for candidates who share our union values, such as the freedom to join together in strong unions; earn living wages and quality health care we can all afford; invest in education so we can put every kid on the path to success; and create policies that lift working Minnesotans and our families up so we can build a brighter future together.

Find your polling place at pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us/.

Council 5's Executive Board – elected by members, for members – endorsed state Rep. Erin Murphy for governor. She is a nurse, and a former organizer and executive director of the Minnesota Nurses Association. She serves on the House Health and Human Services Finance Committee, and the Ways and Means Committee. She's former Majority Leader of the Minnesota House.

Murphy will stand up for our freedom to join unions and to raise our voices together for better wages, benefits and working conditions.

So will all the candidates AFSCME members endorsed for state, county and local offices. Find those endorsements at www.afscmemn.org/vote.

The polls are open until 8 p.m.

We'll see you there!

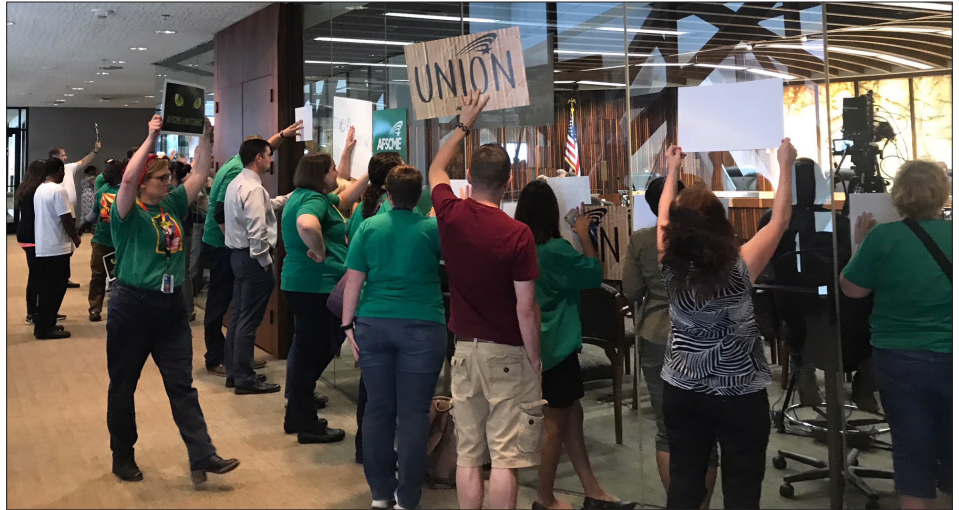
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The CPC is also insisting upon more tools and training for workers.

The CPC has stepped up meetings with the Department and legislators; and is handing out memorial bracelets to corrections workers in Gomm’s honor. When the Legislature is back in session, they’ll attend every correctional hearing and visit lawmakers every week.

“After a day of keeping our coworkers, our institutions and our communities safe, we want to return home safely to our families, too,” Hillyard said.

Read the entire statement at www.afscmemn.org/story/corrections-officers-demand-more-staffing.



More than 100 members of six AFSCME locals protest silently outside a Hennepin County Board meeting on Aug. 7. Hennepin County Locals 34, 552, 2822, 2864, 2938 and 1719 are united in bargaining to win a contract that includes the raises and benefits every worker deserves. The employer wants to take step increases out of the hands of workers and the collective bargaining process, and put them into the hands of county management.

Birttnen Elected to International Board

Congrats to Jeff Birttnen, who was elected Retiree Council Representative to the AFSCME International Executive Board.

Birttnen heads AFSCME Retirees United Chapter 5 and is Council 5’s Day on the Hill Committee chair.

Join Picnic Fun Sunday

It’s finally here! The AFSCME Family Picnic is at Battle Creek Regional Park in Maplewood this Sunday afternoon.

Come enjoy burgers, hot dogs and soft drinks with your family and fellow AFSCME members. The fun includes a raffle and free Battle Creek Waterworks tickets for the first 100 kids.



The University of Minnesota locals hold a member appreciation ice cream social Aug. 2. Erin Murphy and Erin Maye Quade (center, AFSCME’s endorsed candidates for governor and lieutenant governor) talked with members.

Potluck side dishes and desserts are welcome.

If you’d like to volunteer, contact Duane at 651-472-2787 or email him at kkirk77dq@comcast.net. The picnic runs from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Pavilion near the water park.

Get in on the Action

Action Update comes out every two weeks for locals and activists. Download a copy from www.afscmemn.org. Share news by emailing Lynette.Kalsnes@afscmemn.org.

Mark Your Calendars

Event	Date	Place/details
AFSCME Family Picnic	Aug. 19, 1 to 5 p.m.	Battle Creek Regional Park, Maplewood
Council 5 Convention	Sept. 27 to 29	DoubleTree Bloomington Hotel