

New Action/UFT

...a caucus of the United Federation of Teachers

Fighting for educators, building chapters, increasing democracy, with a progressive agenda

615 77th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11209

<http://newaction.wordpress.com/>

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Tyre Nichols – “Say His Name”

Support the Resolution for Just, Respectful and Safe Public Safety Practices

The brutal beating and murder of 29 year old Tyre Nichols by an out of control, special “anti-crime” unit of the Memphis Police Department is yet another example of systemic racism that plagues our society. In this case, 5 black officers have been fired and at least a half dozen others have been suspended or implicated for gross mistreatment for their involvement in his beating and death. U.S. history is replete with the names of victims of racial injustice. There are those who want to erase this history and set our society back to the infamous days of slavery, Jim Crow, Black Codes, and lynchings. The UFT has a history of condemning police violence -going back to Sean Bell, Amadou Diallo, Trayvon Martin, Breonna Taylor, and George Floyd. It is incumbent on us to urge and support the passage of the George Floyd Act, as well as demilitarizing the police.

New Action/UFT agrees with much of today’s resolution. We believe “as public-school educators, it is our responsibility to protect the safety and well-being of all students and to promote equity and justice for all students, families and communities we serve.” We need to call for justice for Tyre Nichols and all victims and their families of systemic racism. Our school system would greatly benefit from discussions and actions pointing to the remedies of gross disparities. We need to start with a serious discussion of what would make every public school a great school and what is needed to eliminate the fear and intimidation our communities of color are experiencing.

Contract Anyone? Where’s the Beef?

Now we have the news from the Independent Budget Office of the City of New York - and it’s good news. According to the IBO, the City is projected to have a surplus of 4.9 billion dollars. So Mayor Adams cannot cry poverty. But he is threatening municipal workers that they will not see contracts until he gets healthcare give-backs. In years past, the City and, unfortunately, our UFT agreed that “the cupboard was empty.” This misguided strategy prevented us from getting fair settlements. Our union has to say loud and clear that there is money to settle up our contract and the contracts of all other unions. Remember, the first union that settles their contract sets the financial pattern for all others that follow. Whether it’s DC 37 or any other union we need to stand together!

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