

IUOE Local 39 Files Grievance Against General Services for Forcing Groundskeepers at the State Capitol Historic Park to Clean Up Human Waste and Needles - November 8, 2017

On September 20, 2017, IUOE Local 39 filed a health and safety grievance against the Department of General Services for forcing Groundskeepers at the State Capitol Historic Park to clean up hazardous waste such as human excrement and used needles and syringes.

The Union's position on this matter is that there is no requirement or language in their job specifications that states they have to clean up hazardous waste which can be linked to hepatitis A.

Several weeks ago Governor Jerry Brown declared a state of emergency in response to the hepatitis A outbreak in Southern California that has killed at least 20 people as a result of a lack of restroom and hand washing facilities.

The Capitol Park, the majestic 40 acre greenspace surrounding the state Capitol in Sacramento, has become a place where people defecate amid the trees and shrubs after hours, creating the same deadly health conditions that exist in San Diego and Los Angeles.

The problem is there are no restrooms open in the park after 6 p.m. on weekdays and 4 p.m. on weekends and General Services doesn't have any plans to keep them open any later and the folks at General Services expect our members to clean up the mess.

In the daytime any Capitol Park visitor can use the restrooms inside the Capitol, but once the sun goes down, visitors evacuate their bowels after dark in hidden places.

This is a public and employee safety issue and the Union is going to do everything we can to protect the health and safety of our members.

In Solidarity,
Steve Crouch
Director of Public Employees