

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR RELATIONS

In the Matter of

CITY OF SPRINGFIELD

and

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE,
COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES,
COUNCIL 93

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Case No. MUP-12-2466

Date issued:
November 25, 2014

Hearing Officer:

Kendrah Davis, Esq.

Appearances:

Maurice M. Cahillane, Esq. - Representing the City of Springfield

Joseph L. DeLorey, Esq. - Representing AFSCME, Council 93

HEARING OFFICER'S DECISION

SUMMARY

1 The issues are whether the City of Springfield (City or Employer) violated Section
2 10(a)(5) and derivatively, Section 10(a)(1) of M.G.L. c.150E (the Law): (1) by installing
3 tracking devices in vehicles driven by City employees and recording the employees'
4 location, idle time, distance driven, number of stops and speeding events in those
5 vehicles without first giving the American Federation of State, County and Municipal
6 Employees, Council 93 (Union or AFSCME) prior notice and an opportunity to bargain
7 to resolution or impasse over the decision to install the tracking devices and record

1 relative data, and the impacts of that decision; and (2) by failing to bargain in good faith
2 with the Union when it refused to bargain on November 27 and 28, 2012 after AFSCME
3 requested to meet with the City on those dates to negotiate over the decision to install
4 tracking devices and record relative data.

5 For the reasons explained below, I find that the City violated Section 10(a)(5)
6 and, derivatively, Section 10(a)(1) of the Law by installing tracking devices in vehicles
7 driven by City employees and recording the employees' location, idle time, distance
8 driven, number of stops and speeding events in those vehicles without first giving the
9 Union prior notice and an opportunity to bargain to resolution or impasse over the
10 decision to install the tracking devices and record relative data, and the impacts of that
11 decision. I also find that the City violated the Law by refusing to bargain with the Union
12 on November 27 and 28, 2012, after AFSCME requested to meet with the City on those
13 dates to bargain over the decision to install tracking devices and record relative data.

14 STATEMENT OF THE CASE

15 On December 7, 2012, AFSCME filed a Charge of Prohibited Practice (Charge)
16 with the Department of Labor Relations (DLR), alleging that the City had engaged in
17 prohibited practices within the meaning of Section 10(a)(5) and derivatively, 10(a)(1) of
18 the Law. On February 11, 2013, AFSCME filed an Amended Charge alleging an
19 additional Section 10(a)(3) violation which it later withdrew on March 27, 2013. On July
20 11, 2013, a duly-designated DLR Investigator issued a two-count Complaint of
21 Prohibited Practice (Complaint) alleging that the City: (1) unlawfully installed tracking
22 devices on City vehicles driven by certain employees and recorded data from those
23 devices without first giving the Union prior notice and an opportunity to bargain to

1 resolution or impasse over the decision to install and record data from the devices, and
2 the impacts of that decision; and (2) refused to bargain in good faith on November 27
3 and 28, 2012 after the Union requested to meet to bargain over the tracking devices.
4 On June 22, 2013, the City filed its Answer.

5 On June 17, 2014, I conducted a hearing at which both parties had a full
6 opportunity to be heard, to examine and cross-examine witnesses and to introduce
7 evidence.¹ The Union and the City filed their post-hearing briefs on July 16 and 17,
8 2014, respectively.

9 STIPULATION OF FACTS

10 The parties stipulated to the following facts:

- 11 1. The City is a public employer within the meaning of Section 1 of the Law.
- 12 2. The Union is an employee organization within the meaning of Section 1 of the
- 13 Law.
- 14 3. The Union is the exclusive bargaining representative for certain employees
- 15 employed by the City, including employees who work in the Department of Public
- 16 Works (DPW).
- 17
- 18
- 19

20 FINDINGS OF FACT

21 **The Collective Bargaining Agreement**

22 The Union and the City were parties to a collective bargaining agreement
23 (Agreement) effective from July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012. The Agreement is silent
24 about the City's use of Global Positioning Systems (GPS) and GPS tracking devices.
25

26 **The GPS Devices**

¹ At the hearing, approximately 26 minutes of witness testimony was missing from the official record due to an inadvertent technical error. In lieu of relitigating that portion of the hearing, on or about September 9, 2014, the parties agreed to include a typed version of my handwritten notes from that 26-minute segment as part of the official record.

1 In or about 2010, the City first acquired four GPS tracking devices for use in
2 DPW vehicles. GPS tracking devices capture and process certain data about the
3 location and movements of DPW vehicles, eliminating the need for alternate forms of
4 monitoring (e.g., radio communication by the driver, in-person supervisory visits and/or
5 public complaints). If a supervisor needed a certain driver's vehicle data, either the
6 driver would informally report that information via radio communication or a supervisor
7 would informally obtain that information via in-person visit.

8 In or about November of 2012, DPW Deputy Director Mario Mazza (Mazza) first
9 installed GPS tracking devices in vehicles operated by DPW administrative personnel
10 (non-bargaining unit members) for experimental purposes only. After that experimental
11 period, Mazza installed those devices in DPW vehicles driven by unit-members. The
12 City also began electronically monitoring the GPS tracking devices from a remote
13 location via a GPS unit map on the GPS website. By remotely monitoring the GPS
14 tracking devices, supervisors were able to determine the drivers' "real time" work
15 locations, idle time, speed, distance driven and number of stops made.²

16 Prior to the GPS device installations, the City did not have any tracking devices
17 in its DPW vehicles. Nor did it have the capacity to determine a DPW vehicle's "real-
18 time" location, idle time, speeding events or number of stops other than what the driver
19 reported to the supervisor over the radio or what the supervisor observed personally.³
20 Prior to, during and after the GPS device installations, the City never required individual

² The record is unclear about whether the City kept the GPS data in perpetuity or deleted the information.

³ The record is unclear about the frequency of driver-to-supervisor radio reports and when/how many times a supervisor would personally observe a driver's DPW vehicle information.

1 unit members to formally report their vehicle's location, idle time, vehicle speed,
2 distance driven or number of stops made unless that information was specifically
3 requested by a supervisor. At all relevant times, the City expected unit members to
4 adhere to traffic laws and the "rules of the road."

5 **Sumares' GPS data**

6 The City authorizes DPW employees to make work-related trips in their DPW
7 vehicles. If DPW employees want to make non work-related trips in DPW vehicles, they
8 must first secure proper authorization.⁴

9 On or about November 23, 2012, Mazza instructed Bob Bernard (Bernard) to
10 install a GPS tracking device on a vehicle operated by DPW foreman and Union
11 President Charles Sumares (Sumares). Soon after the installation, Mazza learned that
12 Sumares had made two unauthorized trips in his DPW vehicle to conduct Union
13 business at the City's Police Department and at another city's municipal water treatment
14 plant.⁵ At some point between November 23 and 27, 2012, the City notified Sumares
15 that it had monitored and recorded his two unauthorized trips via the GPS tracking
16 device that it installed on his DPW vehicle. Sumares then complained to Union Staff
17 Representative Martha Fila (Fila) about the City's installation of a GPS tracking device
18 on his DPW vehicle and explained that his two unauthorized trips were for Union-related
19 business.

20 Fila corresponded with the City's Director of Human Resources William Mahoney
21 (Mahoney) by e-mail on November 27 and 28, 2012, demanding that the City stop using

⁴ The record is unclear about whether the City allows employees to take DPW vehicles home with them.

⁵ The record does not indicate whether Sumares used his DPW vehicle to make unauthorized trips during or after his scheduled work hours.

1 GPS tracking devices on DPW vehicles driven by unit-members, including Sumares.

2 Specifically, on November 27, 2012, Fila stated in full:

3 Good Morning,

4
5 It has been reported to me that a change in working conditions has taken
6 place. I understand that a GPS device has been placed in one of the
7 Foreman's trucks by Bob Bernard.

8
9 Please let this e-mail serve as an official notice to cease and desist from
10 this immediately. I am requesting that you provide to me in writing that
11 this demand has been met no later than November 29, 2012.

12
13 Thank you,
14 Martha Fila

15
16 By reply e-mail to Fila on November 27, 2012, Mahoney stated that the City was
17 authorized to use the GPS tracking devices pursuant to a probable cause determination
18 made by the Commonwealth Employment Relations Board (CERB) where it had
19 dismissed a similar GPS allegation raised by another union in a separate case.

20 Specifically, Mahoney's e-mail stated, in full:

21 Hi Martha,

22
23 I believe the DLR has already decided this issue in one or two cases and
24 determined that this is not a change in working conditions. Specifically,
25 please see City of Worcester and NAGE Local 495 MUP-05-4409.

26
27 Thanks,
28 Bill

29
30 By e-mail on November 28, 2012, Fila responded to Mahoney's November 27,
31 2012 e-mail, inquiring about whether his response meant that the City would "not be
32 cooperating with the Union's demand to cease and desist?" By reply e-mail on that
33 same day, Mahoney replied to Fila, stating in full:

34 Hi Martha,

1 Yes, I don't believe we are in violation of the law based on the DLR's
2 decision in the City of Worcester case. If you have another decision on
3 point please let me know.

4
5 Thanks,
6 Bill

7
8 Fila corresponded with Mahoney on November 28, 2012, reiterating the Union's
9 position that the installation of GPS tracking devices constituted "a change in working
10 conditions, and requires notice to the union, and is a mandatory subject of bargaining."
11 The City did not reply to Fila's last correspondence and the parties never met to bargain
12 over the issue.

13 The Employer never disciplined Sumares for his unauthorized travel in November
14 of 2012; and, since that incident, the City has deactivated and discontinued its use of
15 the four GPS tracking devices.

16 DECISION

17 A public employer violates Section 10(a)(5) and, derivatively, 10(a)(1) of the Law
18 when it unilaterally changes an existing condition of employment or implements a new
19 condition of employment involving a mandatory subject of bargaining without first giving
20 its employees' exclusive bargaining representative notice and an opportunity to bargain
21 to resolution or impasse. Commonwealth of Massachusetts v. Labor Relations
22 Commission, 404 Mass. 124 (1989); School Committee of Newton v. Labor Relations
23 Commission, 388 Mass. 557 (1983); Commonwealth of Massachusetts, 30 MLC 63,
24 SUP-4784 (Oct. 9, 2003). To establish a violation, a union must show that: (1) the
25 employer changed an existing practice or instituted a new one; (2) the change had an
26 impact on a mandatory subject of bargaining; and, (3) the change was implemented
27 without prior notice to the union and an opportunity to bargain to resolution or impasse.

1 Commonwealth of Massachusetts, 30 MLC at 64; Town of Shrewsbury, 28 MLC 44, 45,
2 MUP-1704 (June 29, 2001); Commonwealth of Massachusetts, 27 MLC 11, 13, SUP-
3 4378 (Aug. 24, 2000).

4 **The Unilateral Change.**

5 The Union argues that the City instituted a new practice when it installed GPS
6 tracking devices on DPW vehicles driven by unit employees in November of 2012. The
7 Union contends that the installation was unlawful because prior to November of 2012,
8 the City did not have an established practice of requiring unit members to report their
9 “real-time” location, idle time, speed distance traveled and number of stops made,
10 absent a request for that information by a supervisor. In the alternative, the Union
11 asserts that if the City did establish a prior work rule that required unit members to
12 report their location, idle time, speed distance traveled and number of stops made while
13 driving DPW vehicles, such reporting was only done by the driver via radio
14 communication or by a supervisor’s personal observations; but, never by real-time, 24-
15 hour monitoring on a GPS website.

16 The City contends that because it has always monitored DPW employees while
17 driving DPW vehicles, there was neither a change to any existing practice nor an
18 institution of a new practice when it installed GPS tracking devices on those vehicles in
19 November of 2012. To the extent that the installation of GPS tracking devices on DPW
20 vehicles was a new (or changed) practice, the City argues that the decision was based
21 on a “brief” experimental time period that ended without discipline or consequence to
22 unit members.

1 Specifically, the Employer relies on an unpublished CERB determination in City
2 of Worcester, MUP-05-4409 (Sept. 5, 2007).⁶ In that case, the city required unit
3 members to carry GPS cellular telephones while they were on duty but not during their
4 breaks. At the investigatory stage, the CERB dismissed the charge after finding that the
5 Union had failed to show: (1) how the GPS phones altered unit members 'wages, hours
6 and other terms and conditions of employment; and (2) how the GPS phones
7 constituted anything more than a more efficient and accurate way for the employer to
8 enforce its existing work rules. The Employer also relies on a National Labor Relations
9 Board (NLRB) advisory memorandum in Roadway Express, Inc., Case 13-CA-39940-1
10 (April 15, 2002), which dismissed the allegations that an employer's implementation of
11 GPS technology violated the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA).

12 While I find some guidance in the City of Worcester and Roadway Express, Inc.
13 dismissals, I need not rely on them here because neither the CERB nor the NLRB gives
14 precedential value to pre-hearing dismissals. See City of Taunton, 38 MLC 96, 98-99
15 n.7, MUP-06-4836 and MUP-08-5150 (H.O. May 19, 2011), aff'd 38 MLC 96 (Nov. 2,
16 2011) (citing Quincy City Employees Union, H.L.P.E., 15 MLC 1340, 1368 n. 54, MUPL-
17 2883 and MUP-6037 (Jan. 24, 1989) aff'd sub nom Pattison v. Labor Relations
18 Commission, 309 Mass. App. Ct. 9, (1991), further rev. den'd, 409 Mass. 1104 (1991));
19 see also Bakery Wagon Drivers & Salesmen, Local Union No. 484 v. NLRB, 321 F.2d
20 353, 356-57 (1963) (the NLRB will not find a violation of the NLRA that is not fully

⁶ Between 2006 and 2007, the CERB issued probable cause determinations for prohibited practice charges filed at the investigatory stage. At some point on or after November 14, 2007, this practice changed and hearing officers began issuing probable cause determinations pursuant to Chapter 145 of the Acts of 2007.

1 litigated at the hearing). Consequently, the City's reliance on City of Worcester and
2 Roadway Express, Inc. as binding precedent must fail.

3 Arguing that it was not obligated to bargain with the Union over the installation of
4 the GPS tracking devices or its impacts, the City also cites Duxbury School Committee,
5 25 MLC 22, 24, MUP-1446 (Aug. 7, 1998). In that case, the CERB found that there was
6 no violation of the Law when the employer installed a surveillance camera in an open
7 and fixed location to monitor employees' arrival and departure times because the
8 installation neither altered any pre-existing work rules nor affected any underlying
9 conditions of employment. Specifically, the employer had required unit members to
10 regularly record their arrival and departure times by punching an electronic time clock.
11 After learning that some unit members had falsified their time cards, the employer
12 installed a surveillance camera to ensure the accuracy of the existing method of
13 timekeeping. Id. at 24. Because the employer's surveillance was limited to recording
14 only employees' departure times and was instituted merely as a more efficient and
15 dependable means of enforcing existing work rules, the CERB held that the employer
16 was not obligated to bargain with the union over the surveillance camera installation.

17 The City contends that it was not obligated to bargain with the Union because
18 like the employer's installation of surveillance cameras in Duxbury, its installation of
19 GPS tracking devices on DPW vehicles in November of 2012 did not change any
20 underlying conditions of employment. However, Duxbury is distinguished because in
21 that case the employer had previously required employees to electronically report their
22 arrival and departure times, and only installed one surveillance camera in an open and
23 fixed location to monitor the accuracy of employees' arrival and departure times. Here,

1 there is no evidence that the City had previously required employees to electronically
2 report their whereabouts while traveling in DPW vehicles; instead that reporting was
3 done via radio communication or in-person observation and, only upon request. Also,
4 the City's installation of GPS tracking devices did not occur in a fixed and open location
5 where employees could see the devices, but were surreptitiously placed on DPW
6 vehicles without first notifying the employees or the Union of their installation. Duxbury
7 is further distinguished because the employer in that case was motivated to install the
8 surveillance camera to enforce a pre-existing timekeeping system and to prevent
9 already discovered fraud. Here, the City installed the GPS tracking devices at a time
10 when no formal vehicle data collection method existed; and made those installations
11 weeks *before* Sumares had taken his two unauthorized trips.

12 In addition, the City contends that its sole motivation for instituting the GPS
13 program was for "experimental" purposes only, not to monitor or investigate any pre-
14 existing suspicions of inappropriate employee conduct. Because of the experimental
15 nature of the GPS program and because the City terminated the program after a brief
16 test-period, the Employer argues that there was no need for it to bargain with the Union.
17 However, the CERB holds that an employer must still bargain over
18 experimental/temporary changes to employees' terms and conditions of employment
19 when those changes affect mandatory subjects of bargaining. See generally
20 Commonwealth of Massachusetts, 39 MLC 14, SUP-08-5447 (H.O. July 31, 2012), aff'd
21 in part, rev'd in part (Dec. 27, 2012) (employer's implementation of policy created new
22 changes in the way it temporarily reassigned state-owned vehicles).

23 1. Standards of Productivity and Performance

1 A public employer must bargain with its employees' bargaining representative to
2 impasse or resolution before establishing new conditions of employment affecting
3 mandatory subjects of bargaining. Newton School Committee, 5 MLC 1016 (1978), enf'd
4 sub. nom. School Committee of Newton v. Labor Relations Commission, 388 Mass.
5 557, 572 (1983). The charging party must establish a unilateral change in a pre-existing
6 condition of employment affecting a mandatory subject of bargaining to prove a violation
7 of the Law. City of Boston, 8 MLC 1077, 1081 (1981). The Board holds that a
8 performance evaluation system, which measures standards of productivity and
9 performance is a mandatory subject of bargaining within the meaning of Section 6 of the
10 Law. Town of Wayland, 5 MLC 1738, 1741 (1979).

11 Prior to November of 2012, the City neither monitored real-time data from DPW
12 vehicles driven by unit members, nor required unit members to formally report their real-
13 time data absent a specific request from a supervisor. On or about November 23, 2012
14 the City changed that underlying condition of employment when it installed GPS
15 tracking devices in DPW vehicles driven by unit members and began monitoring real-
16 time data gleaned from those tracking devices (e.g., idle time, speed, distance driven or
17 number of stops made) via the GPS website, which impacted standards of performance
18 and productivity. Town of Andover, 28 MLC 264, 269-70, MUP-1012 and MUP-1186
19 (Feb. 7, 2002) (citing City of Lowell, 28 MLC 126, 127-28, MUP-2299 (October 10,
20 2001); Commonwealth of Massachusetts, 27 MLC 1, 4-5, SUP-4304 (June 30, 2000) (it
21 is well established that the decision to implement a new standard for assessing
22 performance is a mandatory subject of bargaining); see generally Murphy Diesel Co.,
23 184 NLRB 757, 762-64 (1970) aff'd 454 F.2d 303 (7th Cir. 1971) (employer changed a

1 pre-existing work rule that did not require a written explanation to be excused for an
2 absence; the new work rule required written explanations for excused absences, which
3 constituted a material, substantial, and a significant change that affected employees'
4 terms and conditions of employment).

5 The City intended for the GPS program to electronically measure in real-time,
6 specific information that the employer had previously used to evaluate the performance
7 of DPW drivers. Thus, because the Employer changed the standards of measuring
8 Sumares' performance by using electronic GPS tracking devices instead of using radio
9 call-ins or supervisory in-person check-ins, the City was obligated to first negotiate with
10 the Union prior to implementing that change. See City of Taunton, 38 MLC at 98-99. In
11 that case, the city had established a practice of taking employees' daily attendance on
12 sheets of paper, which did not include their actual arrival or departure times. Without
13 bargaining to resolution or impasse with the union, the city installed a new time-punch
14 clock along with a surveillance camera to monitor employees' activity at the time-punch
15 clock. The city later upgraded the time-punch clock and installed an electronic card
16 swipe system to track employees' attendance, again without notifying the union and
17 providing it with an opportunity to bargain to resolution or impasse. Consequently, the
18 CERB found that the employer in City of Taunton was obligated to bargain over the
19 installation of surveillance equipment because the installation affected an underlying
20 term or condition of employment. Id., 38 MLC at 98-99.

21 Based on this evidence, I find that the City unlawfully instituted a new practice of
22 installing GPS tracking devices and recording real-time data from DPW vehicles driven
23 by unit members, which impacted a mandatory subject of bargaining. The City

1 instituted that change without giving the Union prior notice and an opportunity to bargain
2 to resolution or impasse over the decision or its impacts because it was implemented in
3 the beginning of November of 2012, several weeks before the Union actually became
4 aware of the change. Commonwealth of Massachusetts, 27 MLC at 13. Accordingly, I
5 find that the City has violated Section 10(a)(5) of the Law in the manner alleged.

6. **The Failure to Bargain.**

7 Section 6 of the Law requires public employers to negotiate before changing the
8 wages, hours, working conditions or standards of productivity and performance of their
9 employees. School Committee of Newton v. Labor Relations Commission, 388 Mass.
10 557 (1983); see also Commonwealth of Massachusetts, 36 MLC 65, 68, SUP-05-5191
11 (Oct. 23, 2009); Town of Andover, 28 MLC at 269-70. Although there is no precise
12 formula for determining the level of participation in the bargaining process required to
13 meet the requirement of Section 6 of the Law, the CERB has long recognized that
14 refusing to meet is a per se violation of Section 10(a)(1) and (5). New Bedford Housing
15 Authority, 27 MLC 21, 24, MUP-1650 (Sept. 7, 2000) (citing Boston School Committee,
16 23 MLC 111, MUP-9810 and MUP-1090 (Nov. 13, 1996)); see also Everett School
17 Committee, 9 MLC 1308, 1311-12, MUP-4599 (Sept. 21, 1982).

18 Once the Union became aware that the City had installed GPS tracking devices
19 on DPW vehicles driven by unit members, it immediately demanded to bargain with
20 City. However, by e-mails on November 27 and 28, 2012, the Employer expressly
21 refused to meet with the Union and bargain over the issue. The City raises the same
22 defenses to the refusal to bargain allegation as it asserted to justify the unilateral
23 change, and I have rejected those defenses. Consequently, I find that the City's failure

1 to bargain with the Union on November 27 and 28, 2012, over the installation of GPS
2 tracking devices on DPW vehicles driven by unit members violated the Law.

3 CONCLUSION

4 For the reasons stated above, I conclude that the City violated Section 10(a)(5)
5 and, derivatively, Section 10(a)(1) the Law by installing GPS tracking devices on DPW
6 vehicles driven by unit members and recording the location, idle time, distance driven,
7 number of stops and speeding events from those tracking devices without first giving
8 the Union prior notice and an opportunity to bargain to resolution or impasse over the
9 decision and its impacts. I also conclude that the City violated the Law by refusing to
10 bargain with the Union on November 27 and 28, 2012 after AFSCME requested to meet
11 with the City on those dates to bargain over the installation of GPS tracking devices on
12 DPW vehicles driven by unit members and the recording of relative data from those
13 vehicles.

14 ORDER

15 WHEREFORE, based on the foregoing, it is hereby ordered that the City of
16 Springfield shall:

17 Cease and desist from:

- 18 a. Implementing GPS tracking devices in DPW vehicles driven by unit members
19 without first giving the Union notice and an opportunity to bargain to resolution
20 or impasse over the decision and its impacts.
21
22 b. Failing or refusing to bargain collectively and in good faith with the Union over
23 the issue of installing GPS tracking devices in DPW vehicles driven by unit
24 members.
25
26 c. In any like manner, interfering with, restraining and coercing its employees in
27 any right guaranteed under the Law.
28

1 2. Take the following affirmative action that will effectuate the purpose of the Law:
2

3 a. Restore the prior practice of requiring unit members to provide their
4 supervisors DPW vehicle reports via radio communication and in-person
5 supervisory observation.
6

7 b. Upon request, bargain with the Union over the decision to install GPS tracking
8 devices on DPW vehicles driven by unit members, and the impacts of that
9 decision.
10

11 c. Sign and post immediately in all conspicuous places where members of the
12 Union's bargaining unit usually congregate and where notices to these
13 employees are usually posted, including electronically, if the City customarily
14 communicates to its employees via intranet or e-mail, and maintain for a
15 period of thirty (30) consecutive days thereafter, signed copies of the attached
16 Notice to Employees; and
17

18 d. Notify the DLR in writing within thirty (30) days of receiving this Decision of
19 the steps taken to comply with the Order.

20 SO ORDERED.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR RELATIONS

KENDRAH DAVIS, ESQ.
HEARING OFFICER

APPEAL RIGHTS

The parties are advised of their right, pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 150E, Section 11 and 456 CMR 13.15, to request a review of this decision by the Commonwealth Employment Relations Board by filing a Request for Review with the Executive Secretary of the Department of Labor Relations within ten days after receiving notice of this decision. If a Request for Review is not filed within ten days, this decision shall become final and binding on the parties.



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
NOTICE TO EMPLOYEES
POSTED BY ORDER OF A HEARING OFFICER OF THE
THE MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF LABOR RELATIONS
AN AGENCY OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

A Hearing Officer of the Massachusetts Department of Labor Relations has held that the City of Springfield (City) violated Sections 10(a)(5) and, derivatively, 10(a)(1) of General Laws Chapter 150E (the Law) by: (1) installing GPS tracking devices in vehicles driven by City employees and recording the employees' location, idle time, distance driven, number of stops and speeding events in those vehicles without first giving the Union prior notice or an opportunity to bargain to resolution or impasse over the decision to install the GPS tracking devices and record relative data, and the impacts of that decision; and (2) by failing to bargain with the Union to resolution or impasse on November 27 and 28, 2012 after it refused the Union's demand to bargain over the City's installation of GPS tracking devices and recording of relative data. The City posts this Notice to Employees in compliance with the Hearing Officer's order.

Section 2 of the Law gives all employees the right to form, join or assist a union; to participate in proceedings at the Department of Labor Relations; to act together with other employees for the purpose of collective bargaining or other mutual aid or protection; and, to choose not to engage in any of these protected activities.

The City assures its employees that:

WE WILL NOT unilaterally implement GPS tracking devices in DPW vehicles driven by unit members without first giving the Union notice and an opportunity to bargain to resolution or impasse over the decision and its impacts.

WE WILL NOT fail or refuse to bargain collectively and in good faith with the Union over the issue of installing GPS tracking devices in DPW vehicles driven by unit members.

WE WILL NOT in any like or similar manner interfere with, restrain, or coerce employees in the exercise of their rights protected under the Law.

WE WILL restore the practice of requiring unit members to provide their supervisors DPW vehicle reports via radio communication and in-person supervisory observation.

WE WILL upon request, bargain with the Union in good faith to resolution or impasse over the decision to install GPS tracking devices on DPW vehicles driven by unit members, and the impacts of that decision.

City of Springfield

Date

THIS IS AN OFFICIAL NOTICE AND MUST NOT BE DEFACED OR REMOVED

This notice must remain posted for 30 consecutive days from the date of posting and must not be altered, defaced, or covered by any other material. Any questions concerning this notice or compliance with its provisions may be directed to the Department Labor Relations, Charles F. Hurley Building, 1st Floor, 19 Staniford Street, Boston, MA 02114 (Telephone: (617) 626-7132).