

## Teamsters: NYCHA arbitration delayed by AWOL court reporter

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An arbitration hearing between the Teamsters and the de Blasio administration was delayed today after a court reporter failed to show up and catalog the proceedings, according to a union leader.

The meeting — which will decide a key pillar in the de Blasio administration's efforts to reform the New York City Housing Authority — has been rescheduled for next month.

As part of a plan to turn around NYCHA, the city had hoped to ink new collective bargaining agreements with unionized workers at the authority's 326 development complexes. Under the old pacts, these workers were only available during hours that were inconvenient for residents — for example, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for maintenance workers — which officials argued led to work being delayed or never completed. In hopes of changing that dynamic, last year the administration negotiated and ratified a new contract with grounds workers that, while costlier, covered more hours. In April, it appeared that the city was on track for a similar accord with maintenance workers. However, rank-and-file rejected the proposal and the matter was kicked to arbitration.

The first hearing was supposed to happen Friday afternoon, according to Greg Floyd, head of Teamsters Local 237. In anticipation, the organization had tapped a handful of members to testify about workloads so great they have been forced to perform tasks — such as plumbing or carpentry — beyond their traditional bailiwick. "This is not in their job description," Floyd said in an interview. "They are overworked."

However, after waiting to no avail for the court reporter to show, the meeting was called off, he said. A new hearing has been set for Oct. 1.