



## Office of the People's Counsel for the District of Columbia

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# CONSUMER ALERT

## People's Counsel Works to Ensure District Customers Are Not Impacted by Verizon Strike Now Underway

**April 13, 2016**

Washington, DC--The Office of the People's Counsel (OPC) is closely monitoring the strike that began this morning by almost 40,000 unionized Verizon employees along the east coast, including more than 7,000 employees in the District, Maryland and Virginia. These employees work within Verizon's wireline business, which provides consumers with telecommunications services over Verizon's copper line and FiOS networks.

In advance of the strike, People's Counsel Sandra Mattavous-Frye contacted Verizon DC to find out what steps the company is taking to ensure that services continue in the District of Columbia.

Local officials have informed OPC that it is replacing striking workers with trained non-union employees. Contract negotiations that began last year failed to reach an agreement. Therefore, Verizon said management has been preparing for the strike for several months and "...taken measures to ensure its customers would be minimally impacted by any potential work stoppage."

"It is of paramount importance that Verizon continue to provide its District customers with safe and reliable service during this work stoppage," said People's Counsel Mattavous-Frye who added, "I will continue to press Verizon for timely and accurate information about the strike to provide to District ratepayers."

It is unclear how long the strike will last. However, the company is providing status information at: <http://www.verizon.com/about/portal/laborfacts/>

OPC encourages District consumers whose service is affected by the strike to contact our Consumer Services Division at 202-727-3071.