



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Acting Executive Director for
OFFICE LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS
Washington DC 20420

February 16, 2021

Alma L. Lee, National President
National VA Council #53, AFGE, AFL-CIO
PO Box 2209
Salem, VA 24153

Sent via electronic mail only - PresidentLee@afgenvac.org

RE: Union Office Leases and Related Rental Payment Obligations

Dear Ms. Lee:

Approximately one year ago, at the direction of the Office of Personnel Management, VA implemented section 4 of Executive Order 13837 by offering local unions the choice of leasing and paying rent for union office space at VA facilities or vacating such facilities. In many locations where local unions opted to vacate previously held VA office space, VA repurposed that space to support patient care and other activities directly related to the provision of care and services to Veterans.

Effective January 22, 2021, President Biden revoked Executive Order 13837 and ordered all Federal agencies to "review and identify agency actions related to or arising from" it. Upon review, and in light of President Biden's revocation of Executive Order 13837, VA will no longer charge rent for union office space. The union office space leases VA executed in 2020 will not be renewed when they expire.

Those union officials who are currently occupying VA space will continue to be provided rent-free space consistent with the relevant provisions of their collective bargaining agreements.

Those union officials who chose to vacate VA space rather than execute leases may either continue to be officed offsite at their own expense or, should they desire to return to VA office space, may notify local facility management of that desire. Facility managers shall endeavor to find those union officials suitable office space, consistent with applicable provisions of the unions' collective bargaining agreements and with the facilities' patient care demands and other mission-critical needs.

If you have any questions, please contact me at VALMRLitigation@va.gov or 202-461-4122.

Ophelia A. Vicks