Negotiating from a Distance

Valerie Colbert-Osamuede, Deputy Director Labor Relations, City of Detroit





A VIRUS CHANGES EVERYTHING

Tips for Virtual Negotiation

- Set Clear Expectations with your team.
- Establish alternative methods of internal communication.
- Establish an online process

 - Set an agendaCreate rules for video bargaining.

 - Determine the length of sessions.
 Create a system for document management.
 - Ensure that your system is secure.
- Prepare just like you would for in person negotiations (maybe even more).

Tips for Virtual Negotiation

- Prepare to Avoid Technical Difficulties.

 - Sample sessions over Zoom.

 Test devices and Download Updates.
 - Connect with your IT Department.

Practical Advice

- - Disable screen sharing for all users except the host.

 Utilize the Waiting Room feature.

 - Unuse the Waiting Room feature.
 Lock the meeting after a set time.
 Create a password for each bargaining session.
 Require all participants to RSVP for the meeting.
 In your ground rules, set the direction that no recordings will take place.



Practical Advice

- Be prepared to do up front work.
- Be adaptable to situations, technical problems are inevitable.
- Be comfortable with silence.
- Say no to multitasking.
- Switch between different communication media.

 - ZoomEmail/TextingPhone

Pick the best tool for the present task.

Guidance for Finalizing Documents

- Scanning and Emailing Documents
- DocuSign



Video Conferencing Pros and Cons

Pros

- Mirrors face to face communication
- Shortened Sessions
 Ability to do multiple bargaining sessions in one day.
 No Travel Time

Cons

- Seen as a talking head. Unable to get the full effect of non-verbal communication.

 Decreased attention span.

- Temptation to multitask.
 Technical difficulties and security challenges.
- Inability to quickly communicate with team

Other Methods for Virtual Negotiation

- Email
- Texting



Page 3	3
--------	---

Email Negotiation Pros and Cons

Pros

- Gives time to clearly craft the message.
- Can send large amounts of information at once.
- Appealing to those new to negotiations or more introverted

Cons

- No visual or verbal cues.
- Delay in responses.
 - (davs or weeks
- Risk of reading and writing emails on the fly- leading to less coherent and accurate messages.
- Fosters "mutual invisibility"





Page	4
	_