

For Immediate Release
October 22, 2019

CONTACT: Deivid Rojas, deividrojas88@gmail.com, 305-975-8527

*If you are interested in getting on a bus with SEIU Local 73 workers, please contact Deivid Rojas, seats are limited.

**Workers are available for interviews/B-Roll before getting on bus

‘\$1.3 Billion for Sterling Bay, \$15 Thousand for CPS Bus Aides’
CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS BUS AIDES TO HOST A BUS TOUR OF TAX
INCREMENT FINANCING LOCATIONS
Workers Highlight Funding Priorities Before the Mayor’s City Hall Budget
Address

CHICAGO- Bus aides will board the bus Wednesday morning on their way to City Hall for Mayor Lightfoot’s budget address. Chicago Public Schools are facing a priorities crisis, not a funding crisis. Bus aides, represented by SEIU Local 73, are often the first and last contact of support for diverse learners each day. They help to prepare special education students for their day at school, assist them during transportation and manage the transition from the bus to the classroom. However, bus aides are the lowest-paid CPS workers, earning an average of \$15,600 a year and often working multiple jobs to make ends meet. While the City of Chicago insists that there isn’t enough money to pay bus aides a fair wage, the city has rerouted tax increment financing (TIF) from the neighborhoods and community services to wealthy developers. The city also continues to pour millions into private contractors Sodexo and Aramark for facilities management and custodial services. The hundreds of millions of dollars spent on these companies can be better spent providing proper resources for CPS workers to do their jobs.

Join bus aides in a compelling tour that will highlight their daily work and challenges, spotlighting multiple locations that were built with TIF funds, money that should be used to support them and other CPS support staff. Participants will be transported and dropped off at City Hall to witness Mayor Lightfoot’s city budget address, join thousands of marchers, and participate in a rally.

WHO:

Striking Bus Aides and Special Education Classroom Assistants
SEIU Local 73 President, Dian Palmer

WHAT: Bus Tour of TIF Locations before Mayor’s City Hall Budget Address, highlighting the city’s current funding priorities

WHEN: Wednesday, October 23, 2019

7:45 A.M. Media Check-in

8:00 A.M. Bus Departure

WHERE: SEIU Local 73, 300 S Ashland Ave (Bus will be located on Jackson Street. Scheduled to depart at 8 am)

Stop 1: The 78 Chicago
Stop 2: WinTrust Arena
Stop 3: City Hall, 9 am

Marchers will meet at city hall after buses arrive. Rally to follow.

VISUALS: Yellow school bus, bus aides, special education classroom assistants getting on the bus, carrying picket signs and bullhorns.

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SEIU Local 73 represents more than 29,000 workers, primarily in public service and publicly funded positions in school districts, municipalities, social service agencies, and many other job classifications in Illinois and Indiana. SEIU Local 73 represents 7,500 Chicago Public School staff. For more information please visit the SEIU LOCAL 73 website at www.seiu73.org