

PRESS ADVISORY FOR THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 11:00 AM

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*****VISUALS: Workers holding 'Strike Chicago parks and school, #FairContractNow, other signage'**

A WEEK BEFORE OCTOBER 17 STRIKE, PUBLIC SCHOOL SUPPORT STAFF AND PARK WORKERS TO TELL MAYOR LIGHTFOOT: STOP DISRESPECTING & NEGLECTING US

SEIU Local 73 Officers to Give Update on Negotiations, Strikes

CHICAGO- SEIU Local 73 leaders will gather at the Union's office at 300 S. Ashland Ave 4th Floor on Thursday, October 10 and hold a press conference to tell Mayor Lightfoot to stop disrespecting and neglecting the 10,000 park and school workers they represent. Union officials will also give an update on the recent and upcoming bargaining negotiations.

While Mayor Lightfoot has publicly agreed that SEIU Local 73 members have been "chronically underpaid," the Mayor, the Park District, and the Chicago Public School Board have repeatedly failed to offer a contract that fully addresses the economic concerns and working conditions of school staff and park workers. Moreover, SEIU Local 73 members have been continuously marginalized and neglected by the Mayor and the city during negotiations. While the Mayor has stated that she has a 'sense of urgency' and that she has teams working night and day on the contracts, CPS has only negotiated three times with SEIU Local 73 since the beginning of September. The Park District has only held negotiations two times since August 1st.

Chicago Public School staff bargained Tuesday and Wednesday this week. At Tuesday's negotiations, the School Board management committee rejected all of the Union proposals offered in a comprehensive counter-proposal provided by the Union seven days earlier. The negotiations lasted all of thirty minutes. Their proposals still do not ensure the clean and safe schools members are demanding, does not protect the work of special education classroom assistants so that special education students receive the care and instruction they deserve, and continue to give millions of dollars to Sodexo and Aramark while custodians are struggling for resources.

Chicago Park Workers will have bargaining on Friday October 11th, the only date offered by the city for bargaining before the looming October 17 strike. During the last round of negotiations, on Monday September 30, the park district made no new proposals or changes to their proposals. They walked away after barely two hours of negotiations. This was the only day in September the city offered to meet to bargain. The Chicago Park District has continued to propose to double health care costs for workers and to keep two-thirds of its work force without equal benefits and pay.

School and Park workers are ready to settle a contract and avoid a strike if the Mayor actually prioritizes them and is willing to negotiate a fair contract.

WHO: SEIU Local 73 Officers. Rank-and-file bargaining members for Chicago Public School Staff and Chicago Park District.

WHEN: Thursday, October 10, 2019. 11:00AM

WHERE: SEIU Local 73, 300 S. Ashland Ave. Fourth Floor. Suite 400

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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 and more than 2,500 Chicago Park District Workers. For more information please visit the SEIU LOCAL 73 website at www.seiu73.org