

MEDIA ADVISORY FOR 10am, Thursday, August 13, 2020

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****VIDEO PRESSER AUGUST 13, 10am****

UIC Workers Gear Up for Strike Vote

UIC Administration Fails to Make Meaningful Proposals During Bargaining

What: There has been some progress in bargaining sessions over the last few weeks, but UIC administration has failed to respond with meaningful proposals around issues that matter most to workers including pay increases, safe working conditions, and adequate staffing.

About 4,000 clerical, professional, technical and service & maintenance workers (represented by SEIU Local 73) work at the main campus in Chicago, the University of Illinois Hospital and Health and Sciences System, Peoria, Rockford, Champaign, and UIC Specialized Care for Children.

Nearly 2,000 workers at UIC have added their name to a "ready to strike" petition. The strike vote begins on Monday, August 17 and will run through September 1.

Worker demands at the negotiation table include the following:

- Adequate staffing to ensure safety of staff, patients, and students.
- Proper PPE, including universal masking and N95s in the hospital.
- Fair and equitable pay. 5% pay increase each year of the agreement.
- Increasing the base minimum pay to \$15 per hour so that all UIC employees make at least \$15 per hour.
- Market-rates of pay for every employee at UI Health, UIC-DSCC, and all UIC campuses.
- Improved policies around workload and time off to protect staff from being overworked.
- Protections against outsourcing work to outside companies that have no commitment to the needs of students and patients.

When: Thursday, August 13 at 10am

Where: Video press conference via Zoom: To participate, RSVP by emailing Jesús Canchola Sánchez to be sent the link for press conference: jsanchez@seiu73.org. (Link will be sent by 9:30am on day of press conference)

Who: Dian Palmer, President of SEIU Local 73, UIC Workers

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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. We are dedicated to improving the lives of workers and their families.