

MEDIA ADVISORY FOR 10am, Wednesday, August 5, 2020

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****VIDEO PRESSER AUGUST 5, 10am****

Chicago Public School Security Officers Demand #NoCopsInSchools

What: The Chicago Board of Education has failed to include and mention the roles and responsibilities of CPS security staff in the debate to implement changes to the School Resource Officer program. Security officers, represented by SEIU Local 73, are responsible for the overall safety and security of schools. Every Chicago Public School has at least one full time security officer. Security officers are first responders, and primary participants, in emergency response and crisis situations, including active shooter incidents. CPS security officers call for the City of Chicago and CPS to terminate their contract to provide Police Department School Resource Officers to schools.

Chicago Police Department officers play a limited role in the current Chicago Public Schools program. Chicago Police Department School Resources Officers (SROs) are an unnecessary layer of security on top of an already robust security program. CPS security officers play a critical role in the school's culture and climate. Security personnel actively engage in supporting students in order for them to be successful in the classroom and school community. If CPS security officers believe that Chicago Police is needed to assist containing a crisis, the security officers will call the police. Security officers believe that every schools' learning environment should encourage success in the classroom and the school community. School Resource Officers, supplied by the CPS contract with the Chicago Police Department, do not contribute positively to the schools learning environment.

When: Wednesday, August 5 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, CPS Security Officers

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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.