PRESS ADVISORY FOR FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 11:00 AM

Contact:

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***VISUALS: Workers and Aldermen with signs and banners making budget demands to Mayor Lightfoot. Workers protesting and marching in front Chicago Police Department Headquarters***

IN THE MIDST OF MAYOR LIGHTFOOT’S BUDGET HEARINGS CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOL WORKERS, PARK WORKERS, AND ALDERMEN DEMAND THAT THE MAYOR INVEST IN SCHOOLS, PARKS, AND COMMUNITIES NOT THE CRIMINALIZATION OF STUDENTS AND POLICE SETTLEMENTS

After a $33 million deal between Chicago Public Schools and the Chicago Police Department, Workers and Allies Protest the Funneling of Resources from Schools and Parks to the Police

This deal comes as the city is facing a deficit of more than $838 million and has already spent $90 million this year from lawsuit payments. The Mayor is setting aside $152 million for next year’s expected settlements while she’s unwilling to sign a fair contract with workers.

CHICAGO- Dozens of Chicago Public Schools and Park District members of SEIU Local 73, aldermen, and allies will gather on Friday, September 13, in front of the Chicago Police Department headquarters to protest the funneling of funds away from schools, students, and workers to the Chicago Police Department. Workers and allies will hold a press conference to demand that Mayor Lori Lightfoot stop funding the criminalization of students and the outrageous price tag of police settlements. The workers will call on the mayor to instead invest in Chicago’s schools, parks, and communities and to sign a fair contract with the city’s public schools and park workers who are working without a contract, some for more than a year.

Mayor Lightfoot is holding public budget hearings across the city as she works on a proposal for the city’s 2020 budget. However, the Mayor has already set aside $152 million for next year’s expected police misconduct settlements. This year alone the city has already spent over $90 million, while in 2018 it spent a record high of $113 million on settlements. The Park District has an ongoing $12 million contract with the police department. On August 28, the Chicago school board approved a $33 million contract with the police department despite heavy student, parent, and community criticism.

The news of this money allotment comes in the wake of a possible Chicago Public Schools strike already authorized by SEIU Local 73 members and during contract negotiations with both public school support staff and park workers. After months of negotiations, Mayor Lightfoot has not signed a fair contract with Chicago Public Schools janitors, special education workers, and bus aides that would give more resources to students and workers.

WHO:  SEIU Local 73 members who work for Chicago Public Schools and the Chicago Park District, Alderman Byron Sigcho Lopez, Alderman Carlos Rosa, Alderman Rossana Rodriguez-Sanchez, the Chicago Police Accountability Council, Good Kids Mad City, Black Lives Matter, and Grassroots Collaborative

WHEN: September 13, 2019. 11:00AM

WHERE: Chicago Police HQ, 3510 S Michigan