

PRESS ADVISORY FOR FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11, 3:30 PM

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*****VISUALS: Custodians, teachers, and other school staff rallying, chanting, and marching. Banners and signs****

'GIVE US A FAIR CONTRACT FOR CLEAN SCHOOLS, NOT SWIFFER JETS!'

LESS THAN A WEEK BEFORE OCTOBER 17 STRIKE, CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOL CUSTODIANS TO RALLY AND MARCH

Custodians demand a fair contract that gives them proper resources to keep schools clean, not millions for private contractors Sodexo and Aramark

CHICAGO- Chicago Public School custodians with SEIU Local 73 will rally at Dunbar Vocational Career Academy High School at 3000 South Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive on **Friday, October 11 at 3:30 p.m.** to speak out to demand that Mayor Lightfoot sign a fair contract with school custodians that give them the proper resources to keep schools clean and not continue to give millions to private contractors like Sodexo and Aramark. Custodians, allies, and SEIU Local 73 members will then march to Aramark's regional office at 3113 S. Rhodes Ave.

While Mayor Lightfoot and the city have continuously claimed that the district is too cash-strapped to meet the contract demands of Chicago Public School staff, the Chicago Public School board has continued to pour millions into private contractors Sodexo and Aramark for facilities management and custodial services. Since 2014, CPS has given Sodexo \$244,350,538 and Aramark \$443,745,483, despite [multiple reports and audits that have found that these companies are leaving schools dirty](#). Teachers, students, parents, and staff have also continuously complained about dirty conditions in schools, where custodians are given Swiffer Jets, instead of proper mops to clean the schools. The city has refused to dissolve its multi-million contracts with Sodexo and Aramark.

Chicago Public School staff, including custodians, bargained Tuesday and Wednesday this week. During 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. 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 since the beginning of September with SEIU Local 73. The proposals offered by the Mayor and CPS continue to give millions of dollars to Sodexo and Aramark while custodians are struggling for resources to keep schools clean.

WHO: Chicago Public School custodians SEIU Local 73 Officers. Teachers and representatives of the Chicago Teachers Union

WHEN: Friday, October 11, 2019. 3:30 P.M.

WHERE: Dunbar Vocational Career Academy High School, 3000 South Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive

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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