

PRESS ADVISORY FOR MONDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2:00 PM

Contact:

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*****VISUALS: Hundreds of Chicago public school staff and teachers, park workers, allies, elected, students, and Chicagoans rally and march. Signs, banners, and other visuals****

'STAND UP FOR EDUCATION JUSTICE!'

DAYS BEFORE OCTOBER 17 STRIKE, HUNDREDS OF TEACHERS, STAFF, AND PARK WORKERS TO HOLD RALLY AND MARCH

35,000 workers stand together to build a movement for the schools and parks Chicago's students and families deserve.

CHICAGO-Chicago Public School teachers and staff, park workers, students, parents, electeds, and allies will hold a rally on Indigenous Peoples' Day, **Monday, October 14 at 2:00 p.m.** at the Chicago Temple, 77 W. Washington in downtown Chicago. Their demands are simple: that Mayor Lightfoot sign fair contracts with CPS teachers and frontline staff and Chicago Park District workers that supports the schools and parks that Chicago's students and families deserve. Teachers, staff and park workers will then march through downtown Chicago to call on Mayor Lightfoot to put her promises in writing for the more equitable Chicago that she campaigned on as a candidate.

35,000 Chicago Public School teachers and staff and park workers are represented by the Chicago Teachers Union and SEIU Local 73. For months, they have been working without a contract, have bargained in good faith, and have submitted numerous comprehensive contract proposals and counter-proposals that create real equity for the students and families who rely on Chicago's schools and parks. The two unions stand for smaller class sizes, a nurse, librarian and social worker in every school, protection for the work of special education classroom assistants so that special education students receive the care and instruction they deserve, adequate resources for custodians, more resources for neighborhood schools in Black and Latinx communities with the most need, and economic justice for the two-thirds of park workers who work part-time.

The unions have provided outlines and structures that offer the mayor a path to keeping her campaign promise of a more equitable Chicago. To date, the mayor has refused to put those promises in writing in an enforceable contract, even as she's signed enforceable contracts with Aramark and Sodexo despite their subpar support of Chicago public schools, and with the wealthy developers of Lincoln Yards, who are getting more than a billion dollars in public TIF funds to create a new neighborhood in 'blighted' Lincoln Park, one of the wealthiest zip codes in the nation.

35,000 workers strong are ready to strike on October 17 if Mayor Lightfoot is not willing to stand up for Chicago's students and families -- and put those in writing in an enforceable contract.

WHO:

- Chicago Public School elementary and high school teachers, nurses, social workers, teaching assistants, school clerks, special education teachers, bilingual education teachers and other frontline staff who are members of the Chicago Teachers Union.
- Chicago Public School Special Education Classroom Assistants, Custodians, Bus Aides, Security Staff and other school staff who are members of SEIU Local 73.
- Chicago Park landscape laborers, special recreation workers, attendants, instructors, recreational leaders, supervisors and other workers who are members of SEIU Local 73
- SEIU Local 73 and CTU Officers.
- Randi Weingarten, President of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT)
- Mary Kay Henry, International President of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
- Elected officials, parents, students, grassroots advocacy groups and Chicagoans from across the city.

WHEN: Monday, October 14, 2019. 2:00 P.M.

WHERE: Chicago Temple Building. 77 W. Washington Ave.

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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

The Chicago Teachers Union represents over 25,000 teachers and educational support personnel working in schools funded by City of Chicago School District 299, and by extension, the nearly 400,000 students and families they serve. The CTU is an affiliate of the American Federation of Teachers and the Illinois Federation of Teachers and is the third-largest teachers local in the United States. For more information please visit the CTU website at