



**MEDIA ADVISORY**

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## **27 Chicago Faith Leaders Add Their Support to Cook County Workers on Strike**

**Chicago, IL** – As hundreds of Cook County workers rallied in the streets outside City Hall demanding a fair contract, a group of 10 strikers went inside to President Preckwinkle’s office on the fifth floor to deliver a solidarity letter.

Preckwinkle’s staff refused to come out, so we decided to sit and occupy the space until they met with us. Upon hearing that their union sisters and brothers occupied Preckwinkle’s office, the outside crowd swarmed the fifth floor. Together, we held the space and led chants to let our presence be known and felt. Our voices rang through the fifth floor and all over the County Building. If the purple shirts and the strike signs didn’t make it obvious, our energy and passion did. We are Local 73 — the Cook County workers who kept the County running during a pandemic, the strikers who shut down the County building last week, and the union that will continue disrupting business as usual until we get the contract we deserve!

At the same time, a letter from [27 Chicago Faith Leaders](#) was delivered to President Preckwinkle calling on her to settle the strike.

“Our congregations are watching this pivotal moment in our county’s history. We are looking to you, as the leader of the county, to step up and do what is right and good. Give these essential workers the dignity and respect they deserve with a fair contract.”

Informal talks have continued since the union gave their last supposal to the County on Friday, July 2.

“We know that President Preckwinkle can settle our contract at any time and end this strike,” said Dian Palmer, President of SEIU Local 73, which represents the 2,500 Cook County workers. “It’s never too late to do the right thing. Every day we have called on her to do the right thing and settle our contract. There is no need for this to continue when we are so close to an agreement.”

The difference between the last proposals equates to less than 1/20th of one percent of the County’s \$6 billion annual budget.

**Workers will be striking on Thursday, July 8 at the following locations:**

**6:00 am – 2:00 pm**  
*Southside Construction Site*  
95th St. and Roberts Rd., Hickory Hills

**7:00 am – 11:00 am**  
*Northside Construction Site*  
Lake Cook Rd & McHenry Rd, Buffalo Grove

**9:00 am – 1:00 pm**  
Markham Courthouse

**8:00 am – 11:00 am**  
Stroger Hospital  
County Jail

**12:00 pm – 2:00 pm**  
County Jail  
Community March and Leafleting

**11:00 am – 3:00 pm**  
Skokie Courthouse

**4:00 pm**  
Civil Disobedience Training

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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.*