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Dear President Preckwinkle,

As the spiritual leaders in Cook County, we are calling on you to settle the contract with the Cook County workers represented by SEIU Local 73. These essential workers have kept our county running throughout the pandemic. They have put their lives on the line to provide the vital services our people depend upon.

This strike has already lasted more than a week. Every day it lasts is another day these workers are kept from doing the jobs they love. Asking for the same raises that the County provided the other unions, namely: AFSCME, NNU and Teamsters Local 700 is only fair and just.

These are our neighbors, our family, and our friends. We are asking you to look into your heart and do the right thing. Send your negotiating team back to the bargaining table and settle this contract with the workers.

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.

Respectfully,

Coalition of Faith Leaders in Chicago and Vicinity:

Pastor Robert C. Jones, Jr., Mt. Carmel M.B. Church
Pastor Jarvis J. Hanson, New Nazareth Baptist Church
Pastor James Flint, Jr., Calvary Baptist Church
Pastor Curlee Adams, St. Paul CME Church
Pastor John Smith, Olivet Baptist Church
Pastor Larue Kidd, Truelight Baptist Church
Pastor Chenier Austin, New Israelite Baptist Church
Pastor Derrius Colvin, 1st Progressive Church
Pastor Alvin Love, Lilydale 1st Baptist
Rabbi Brant Rosen, Tzedek Chicago
Father Larry Dowling, St. Agatha Catholic Church
Pastor Booker Vance
Pastor Emma Lozano, Lincoln United Methodist Church
Rev. Marilyn Pagan-Banks, San Lucas UCC
Pastor Scott Onque, St. Luke M.B. Church

Pastor A. William Staten, Sr., Calvary M.B. Chicago
(Chicago Heights)
Pastor Michael Runnels, Greater Metropolitan Baptist
Church
Pastor Steve Spiller, Greater Galilee Baptist Church
Pastor Victor Roland, Original Providence Baptist Church
Pastor Jason Coulter, Ravenswood UCC
Apostle Carl White, Jr., Victory Christian Assembly
Pastor William Fleshman, Abundant Living
Pastor W. James Jenkins, Jr., Flesh Becoming Word
Church
Apostle Steve Jones, Praise Tabernacle
Elder Lawrence Moore, True Holiness
Bishop Charles Mickens, Lights of Zion Ministries
Apostle Timothy Treadwell

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