



July 6, 2021

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The Hon. Toni Preckwinkle  
Cook County Board President  
118 N. Clark St.  
Room 537  
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear President Preckwinkle:

We are calling on you to settle the contract dispute with SEIU Local 73 and end the strike now in its second week. Labor peace is in the best interests of Cook County, its residents, the patients of Cook County Health, and the members of SEIU Local 73.

We understand one of the main sticking points in negotiations is whether SEIU is being offered an economic package comparable to the NNOC and AFSCME packages. Our understanding is SEIU Local 73, like the other unions, is willing to agree to the same general wage increases of 8.5% over four years, increases in employee contributions to health insurance, and lump sum non-compounding bonuses.

Local media outlets have reported that the dispute focuses on whether the County's offered modifications to the wage step scales in the SEIU Local 73 contracts are consistent with what the County negotiated with the other unions. The wage step scales – when combined with the general wage increases and other improvements – were a critical part of each contract settlement. The pay schedule changes in each contract represent meaningful wage increases over and above the general wage increases agreed upon.

AFSCME and NNOC each received the following improvements to their respective wage schedules in addition to the 8.5% general increases:

- NNOC: The new agreement includes three additional steps to their current fourteen-step scale. Each of the new steps is a 2% increment above the prior step.
- AFSCME: The top step in the AFSCME pay schedules was increased. That increase impacted other steps and the entire pay schedule was restructured. This resulted in increases throughout the pay schedule above the negotiated general wage increases.

SEIU Local 73 members have been on the picket lines since June 24. As the President of the Cook County Board, we know you have the power to settle the contract, end the strike, and let these workers return to serving their communities and patients with dignity. We urge you to do so.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Villar  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Chicago Federation of Labor

Mike Newman  
Deputy Director  
AFSCME Council 31

Danny Ritter  
Midwest Coordinator  
National Nurses Organizing Committee