



**FOR PLANNING PURPOSES**

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## **UChicago Medicine Workers Announce ULP Strike for a Fair Contract**

**Chicago, IL** – UChicago Medicine workers have voted overwhelmingly to go on an Unfair Labor Practice Strike for a fair contract and to protest UCMC labor law violations starting Sunday, July 14.

SEIU Local 73 represents 125 building trades and supply chain workers and has been in contract negotiations for more than six months. Workers' wages and benefits have not kept pace with inflation. The union has also filed multiple unfair labor practice charges against UChicago Medicine for surveillance of a union activity, cancelling bargaining in retaliation for concerted activity, and failure to provide information relevant to bargaining.

"The building trades and supply chain workers at UChicago Medicine are the lifeblood of the medical center. Every day they keep these hospitals functioning and supplied for the patients and this community," **said Jeff Howard, Executive Vice President of SEIU Local 73.** "These workers deserve to be treated with dignity and respect. They deserve fair wages and benefits for the work they do. Going on strike is a measure of last resort and it is unfortunate that management has chosen to push these workers into striking for what is right."

UChicago Medicine workers are demanding:

- Wage increases that keep pace with inflation
- Affordable health insurance
- Improved benefits

"“Since the start of bargaining, we've made changes and compromises on our contract proposals but UCMC's wage proposal does not match inflation rates or the cost of living," **said Charles Matthews, Operating Engineer.** "In today's economy, we are falling behind, and our jobs are not able to sustain us anymore. It's a shame we don't have affordable health insurance when we work for a major hospital."

“We keep UChicago Med properly running and we deserve affordable health insurance for ourselves and our families,” **said Justin Babitsch, Painter.** “Management’s final proposal amounts to a pay cut for us. The meager raises they offered are negated by the cost of our health care coverage. For any hospital to treat its workers this way is deplorable.”

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*SEIU Local 73 represents more than 35,000 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.*