



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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UIUC Building and Food Service Workers Reject Contract Again

Champaign, IL – University of Illinois – Urbana Champaign (UIUC) Workers have once again voted down the latest contract proposal. SEIU Local 73 represents 766 Food Service and Building Service Workers who have been in contract negotiations for eight months and overwhelmingly voted to strike on July 24.

“We are prepared to continue negotiations and are hopeful an equitable agreement can be reached,” **said Joseph Richert, SEIU Local 73 Secretary-Treasurer.** “However, since we have already delivered the legally required strike notification, our members are prepared to strike at any time if necessary to secure a fair contract.”

“The fact is management appears unwilling to offer what amounts to thirty more cents over the next three years,” **said Melody Decker, Chapter 119 President and Building Service Worker.** “It is disrespectful that they don’t seem to think we’re worth thirty cents more.”

“We are severely short staffed and the wages UIUC is offering do not go far enough to recruit and retain workers,” **said Dena Gary, Head Cook and Bargaining Team Member.**

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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.