August 3, 2016

Dear Member of SEIU Local 73:

After a crisis of governance and collapse of leadership at SEIU Local 73, the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), today, issued an emergency trusteeship to protect the interests of SEIU Local 73’s members, ensure the performance of the Local’s collective bargaining responsibilities, and restore democratic procedures at the Local.

Immediate action was required because incessant infighting between Local 73’s top elected officers, President Christine Boardman and Secretary-Treasurer Matthew Brandon, reached a boiling point and seriously disrupted the operations and functioning of the Local, putting your interests at risk.

Circumstances deteriorated so badly that the local was unable to conduct the July 15, 2016 Executive Board meeting to carry out union business or hold a basic membership meeting scheduled for the next day.

SEIU Local 73 members raised concerns that the Local’s internal divisions were becoming known to employers as well as people working to form unions with the Local. These members worried that the union’s leadership problems threatened ongoing bargaining and potential members’ confidence about joining the Local, as well as members’ relationships with other Chicago unions.

As events have unfolded at the Local Union over the last several weeks, it has become clear that Local 73’s members cannot rely on the Local to function in a responsible manner.

Our work to build power for public workers in the workplace, in the halls of government chambers and in the community has never been more critical than in the present political climate in which we are now operating.

The Trusteeship team will be lead by Trustee Eliseo Medina and Deputy Trustees Dian Palmer, local President of SEIU Healthcare Wisconsin, and Lenore Friedlaender, an officer of SEIU Local 32BJ. SEIU, as required by our constitution and by-laws, will work to protect the best interests of SEIU Local 73 members by restoring the normal operations and functions of the Local. To protect your interests, we are working quickly to ensure that there is continuity in the representation of our members.

Attached is a copy of the trusteeship order for your reference.

If you have any questions or need any additional information, please reach out to the Local 73 Office at 312-787-5868.

In Unity,

Eliseo Medina
Trustee, SEIU Local 73
August 3, 2016

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

In accordance with the powers vested in me by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Service Employees International Union, CtW, CLC, I have appointed Eliseo Medina as Trustee, and Dian Palmer and Lenore Friedlaender as Deputy Trustees, over the affairs of SEIU Local 73, effective August 3, 2016.

The Trustee and Deputy Trustees will have charge of the affairs of SEIU Local 73 until relieved of responsibility by me.

The Trustee and Deputy Trustees will be governed by the provisions of the Service Employees International Union Constitution and Bylaws and the provisions of applicable law.

Sincerely,

Mary Kay Henry
International President