

To the Union Janitors of Downtown Milwaukee:

We, the undersigned elected leaders and policymakers, write to express our solidarity with you as you enter union contract negotiations during July 2021 with the cleaning companies operating in (and the owners of) downtown buildings. We support you in your core demands.

After a year in which the essential work of many became publicly and dramatically visible, it is no longer possible to deny essential workers -- including janitors in Milwaukee's downtown buildings -- a just wage, health and safety protections, and input on the job.

You have always been essential and, as elected leaders and policymakers, we stand with you in efforts to secure a union contract that reflects this.

We believe specifically that the union contract covering commercial cleaners -- three of whom died from COVID while working during the pandemic -- must reflect the following priorities identified by janitors:

- **\$15 Wage Floor:** While union janitors are already paid more than non-union cleaners doing the same work -- and union janitors have access to health insurance -- downtown cleaners are not yet paid \$15 per hour. Though \$15 per hour is still not a true living wage in Milwaukee, janitors are fighting for \$15 as a significant step toward a family-supporting wage.
- **Voice on the Job and a Seat at the Table:** When the pandemic hit, janitors had no way to ensure appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) from their employers nor adequate training for the use of chemicals. Even before COVID, janitors needed a way to work with their employers and building management to ensure healthy and safe workplaces. Milwaukee cleaners are calling for a citywide seat at the table with building owners and cleaning contractors to exercise their collective voice.
- **Union for All Janitors:** The current union contract covers work in downtown buildings only. Union janitors believe that all cleaners in Milwaukee should benefit from a strong union contract and will bargain to expand contract

coverage to other parts of the metro region. When all Milwaukee commercial cleaners have fifteen and a union, we can build a city for all of us.

The building service workers who work downtown take their paychecks home to neighborhoods across Milwaukee. You are the lifeblood of a functioning city. Milwaukee works because you do. Our city has invested enormous resources in a vibrant downtown commercial core; it is time for the benefits of that investment to extend to our community as a whole, starting with a strong union contract for janitors.

As elected leaders and policymakers, we support a path to living wages, a voice and seat at the table, and fifteen and a union for all Milwaukee janitors.

In Solidarity,

David Crowley
Milwaukee County Executive

Cavalier Johnson
President, Milwaukee Common Council
Alderman, Milwaukee Common Council 2nd District

Marcelia Nicholson
Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
County Supervisor, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors 5th District

Nik Kovac
Alderman, Milwaukee Common Council 3rd District

Bob Bauman
Alderman, Milwaukee Common Council 4th District

Nikiya Dodd
Alderwoman, Milwaukee Common Council 5th District

Milele Coggs

Alderwoman, Milwaukee Common Council 6th District

Khalif Rainey

Alderman, Milwaukee Common Council 7th District

JoCasta Zamarripa

Alderwoman, Milwaukee Common Council 8th District

Michael Murphy

Alderman, Milwaukee Common Council 10th District

Jose Perez

Alderman, Milwaukee Common Council 12th District

Marina Dimitrijevic

Alderwoman, Milwaukee Common Council 14th District

Liz Sumner

County Supervisor, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors 1st District

Sequanna Taylor

County Supervisor, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors 2nd District

Dr. Sheldon Wasserman

County Supervisor, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors 3rd District

Ryan Clancy

County Supervisor, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors 4th District

Shawn Rolland

County Supervisor, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors 6th District

Felesia Martin

County Supervisor, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors 7th District

Steve Shea

County Supervisor, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors 8th District

Priscilla Coggs-Jones
County Supervisor, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors 10th District

Joseph Czarnecki
County Supervisor, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors 11th District

Sylvia Ortiz-Velez
County Supervisor, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors 12th District
Representative, Wisconsin State Assembly 8th District

Willie Johnson, Jr.
County Supervisor, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors 13th District

Jason Haas
County Supervisor, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors 14th District

Eddie Cullen
County Supervisor, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors 15th District

Russell Goodwin
County Supervisor, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors 18th District

Tim Carpenter
Senator, Wisconsin State Senate 3rd District

LaTonya Johnson
Senator, Wisconsin State Senate 6th District

Chris Larson
Senator, Wisconsin State Senate 4th District

Daniel Riemer
Representative, Wisconsin State Assembly 7th District

David Bowen
Representative, Wisconsin State Assembly 10th District

Supreme Moore Omokunde
Representative, Wisconsin State Assembly 17th District

Evan Goyke
Representative, Wisconsin State Assembly 18th District

Jonathan Brostoff
Representative, Wisconsin State Assembly 19th District

Chris Sinicki
Representative, Wisconsin State Assembly 20th District