

COUNTY IMPOSES SHUTDOWN DAYS IN THE HEALTH SYSTEM

AFSCME FILES UNFAIR LABOR PRACTICE CHARGE

In spite of the vote by AFSCME members in the Health System to reject the County's proposal that employees take unpaid days off, the County has acted unilaterally to impose five unpaid "shutdown" days on Health System employees.

The County had previously entered into an agreement with AFSCME and other unions providing that the question of taking furlough/shutdown days would be put to a vote of union members—and that the County would abide by the outcome of that vote.

Nonetheless, without any discussion with the Union—or even prior notification—the County is proceeding with imposing shutdown days on Health System employees.

AFSCME demanded that the County rescind the mandate that employees take off without pay for the scheduled "shutdown" days and is now taking legal action at the State Labor Board.

The Union has filed an unfair labor practice charge with the Labor Board and is seeking a remedy that requires the County to reimburse employees for all lost wages resulting from the shutdown days.

Cook County Health System employees provide essential health care services to hundreds of thousands of medically indigent County residents. Community clinics were shut down on Friday with only most minimal notice to the thousands of patients who had appointments scheduled—some of whom had already waited for weeks, even months, for necessary tests or treatment. Unfortunately, the Administration is demonstrating all too clearly that it has little concern for patients in need of health care or the employees who provide it.

You voted to reject the furlough/shutdown days and the County has no right to ignore your wishes. AFSCME will continue to pursue all available remedies to ensure that Health System employees are treated fairly and that your voice is heard and your decision respected.

