
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

November 19, 2013

Ald. Tony Zielinski
(414) 405-1483

MEDIA ADVISORY

Alderman Zielinski joins janitors, community supporters in rally for good-paying jobs

Janitors in Milwaukee are joining a growing movement in the nation's low-wage workforce, calling on the country's richest corporations to create good jobs that can sustain local communities. Janitors will rally in front of BMO Harris Bank, a corporation that made \$4.1 billion last year alone. But BMO Harris's janitors, working for CleanPower, are paid, on average, \$9,000 a year with no benefits. Today's rally will kick off contract negotiations between hundreds of Milwaukee SEIU Local 1 janitors and some of the largest janitorial contractors in the country, with support from local leaders like Alderman Tony Zielinski. The current agreement expires on December 31, 2013, and talks to negotiate a new agreement are set to start tomorrow.

Many Milwaukee janitors qualify for and depend on a host of public assistance programs to make ends meet. With the fourth highest poverty rate of any major city in the nation and a high rate of racial income disparity, Milwaukee's working families are working harder than ever to secure a better future. Union janitors are proposing a fair wage increase and maintained access to affordable health care. When low-wage workers like Milwaukee's janitors are forced to rely on publicly-funded programs, taxpayers are essentially subsidizing the profits of corporations like BMO Harris and the janitorial contractors that they hire. Alderman Zielinski and other community supporters will call on corporations like BMO Harris Bank and the janitorial companies that they contract with to do their part by providing good jobs.

What: Milwaukee janitors contract kick-off rally

When: 3:30 p.m. TODAY, November 19, 2013

**Where: In front of BMO Harris Bank
780 N. Water St.**

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