



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 2, 2015**

**Contact:**

Coral Itzcalli: 213-321-7332

Coral.itzcalli@seiu721.org

**LA City Workers Authorize a Strike Vote; With Full-Backing from Community Leaders and LA Residents, City Workers Move to Escalate their Fight to Restore Key Neighborhood Services and Fix LA City Streets**

*LOS ANGELES, CA – Reverend William Smart and LA city worker Tim Butcher released the following statements on behalf of the Fix LA Coalition confirming commencement of a strike vote by the approximately 10,000 city workers represented by SEIU Local 721. LA City residents, community leaders and city workers have been sitting side-by-side at the bargaining table for the past nine months determined to Fix LA and they are now ready to do whatever it takes to make sure LA city has the services needed to keep our city clean, safe and functioning.*

“The workers of Los Angeles and community organizations will continue to stand shoulder to shoulder until our mission to make Wall Street banks pay to Fix LA is completed. We fully sanction any and all actions the workers feel are necessary to achieve the settlement that Los Angeles needs,” said Rev. William Smart, President and CEO of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference of Southern California.

LA City worker from the Street Service division, Tim Butcher added, “City of Los Angeles workers united in SEIU 721 have bargained tirelessly for nine months alongside community leaders and residents to achieve a settlement that protects the needs of LA’s working families and restores vital city services.

“Together our labor-neighbor alliance has urged City Hall leaders to make good on their mandate to renegotiate the dirty bank deals that are siphoning hundreds of millions in taxpayer dollars from street services and disadvantaged communities each year. But after months of delegations at City Hall and marches downtown, we see little progress on our common-sense policies and are thus making preparations to authorize a strike if that is what it takes to Fix LA.

“We are extremely frustrated but remain hopeful that the Mayor and City Council will find the courage and leadership to take on Wall Street and avert a work stoppage so that we can join forces to rebuild a Los Angeles that works for everyone.”

###