

## **SEIU Local 140 Newsletter 8.25.23**

### **Take Action!**

- Attend our next bargaining session Friday 9/1 at 1pm at the SEIU building (525 NE Oregon St.)
- Attend the next school board meeting Tuesday, 9/5 at 6pm at the district building (501 N Dixon St.)
- Next membership meeting will be Saturday 9/9 at noon, location TBD.
- Sign our email [petition](#) to the school board and share with family, friends and community members! Send a message asking the school board to prioritize safe and healthy schools over administrative positions.

### **Union Updates**

#### **Bargaining and Sexual Harassment Campaign Updates**

The bargaining team is set to meet with management next on September 1st from 1-5pm at the SEIU building (525 NE Oregon St.) We still have yet to come to agreement with the district on any of our major proposals including wages, healthcare, vacation days, staffing and job assignments, and hazard pay. If you are able, please join us during bargaining when you are off the clock. We will provide updates on the district's response. We also have upcoming bargaining dates scheduled with the district September, 8th, 13th, and 14th.

Thus far, the district has satisfied none of our demands in regards to addressing ongoing sexual harassment and retaliation at PPS. Although we asked for an independent audit of the district's practice of investigating sexual harassment complaints, they hired a management-side lawyer to investigate only current cases of harassment. They have not offered to provide any in-person sexual harassment prevention training. Our union coalition including PAT, PFSP, and DCU will be meeting this week to unite on a coalition-wide letter to the school board.

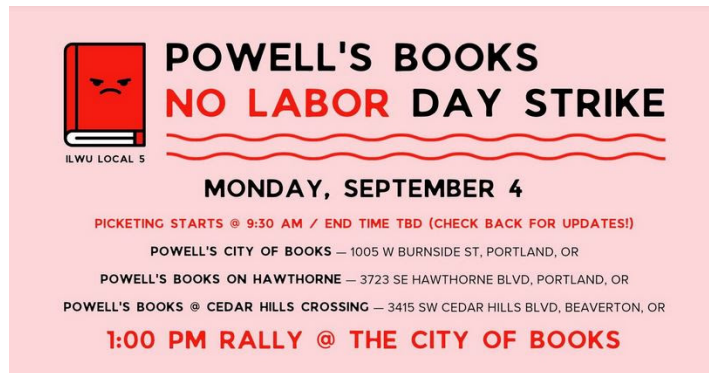
#### **SAZAN Report Shows District is Failing to Maintain its Buildings**

A recent article in the [NW Labor Press](#) documents the critical short-staffing and underfunding of the maintenance department at PPS. Compared to other districts, PPS invests considerably less in maintaining its facilities and operates with bare-bones crews. This means that PPS is constantly trying to react to issues that come up due to the lack of service, rather than maintain the health and safety of our buildings for the long term. Although the district saves money in the short term, this ends up costing taxpayers far more over time to respond to long-overdue projects and significant safety risks and hazards due to neglect.

## Local Solidarity

### **Powell's Books ILWU Local 5 Workers to Strike on Labor Day**

Powell's books workers who are a part of ILWU Local 5 will hold a one day work stoppage at all three Powell's locations and will hold a rally at 1 p.m. at Powell's City of Books on Burnside. They are asking customers to boycott the store on that day. There will be a fundraiser for their strike fund at Worker's Tap (101 SE 12th Ave.) on Wednesday, August 30th from 5 p.m. to midnight. Look for more information about how to support Powell's workers in future newsletters. Workers have criticized the company for refusing to offer a living wage.



### **Back to School has Impacts on Houseless People and Trans Youth**

Portland Public Schools is starting the school year by requiring all middle school and high school students to wear an [ID badge](#) at all times. Assistant Superintendent Margaret Calvert (\$171,000/yr) claims the badges will help in “making a sense of community and being really clear about who's part of what community.” It will likely increase the profiling and surveillance of all students, and be harmful to trans kids whose accurate identity may not be reflected in a district-assigned ID badge. This comes as PPS is soliciting bids on installing new surveillance cameras in all school buildings district-wide.

The district is also working with the city to [forcibly remove](#) people living on the streets in the vicinity of school buildings. Despite the fact that many PPS families and students are homeless themselves, neither the district, nor the city has provided any real solutions besides constantly sweeping camps and forcing people to constantly move from one site to another. Just this August there have been 303 sweeps in Portland according to the mayor's office. Rather than address the root problems of inflation, high rent, low wages, and meager social services including the slashing of [food stamp benefits](#) earlier this year, the city prioritizes the criminalization and policing of its most vulnerable residents.

Poor, homeless, and working people should not be made into scapegoats for a problem created by corporate greed and inadequate social services. Many of us do not have stable housing or are one paycheck away from losing our housing. Instead of spending millions on sweeps, incarceration, and stop-gap solutions, perhaps that money can be directed toward increasing wages, rental assistance, affordable healthcare and free education while preventing developers and landlords from profiting off our need to have a roof over our heads.

## **Street Roots Article Exposes Background of City Decision on Zenith Energy Terminal**

A recent Street Roots [article](#) investigates the City of Portland's dealings with Zenith Energy who have an oil storage and export facility in an industrial area of NW Portland. Although the city initially denied Zenith an air quality permit in August 2021, city regulators with the Bureau of Development Services (BDS) approved a critical Land Use Compatibility Statement (LUCS) for the terminal to continue operating on October 3rd 2022. It appears that city officials including Commissioners Dan Ryan and Carmen Rubio, along with various staff members from their offices, met with Zenith officials in a process that has been criticized by environmental justice advocates as ignoring the perspectives of the public. The approval of the LUCS permit came amidst ongoing litigation between the city and the corporation, with the company stating that Portland has no authority to refuse them the ability to operate. City officials took a tour of the site organized by Zenith's PR firm, Pac/West Communications, and the corporation has often pushed a narrative that they are planning to eventually use the facility only for "renewable fuels" which environmental groups have described as a form of greenwashing.

## **International Solidarity**

### **Working Women Protest Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation in Seattle**

On Sunday, August 20th over 100 activists including 4 PPS workers staged a protest and disruption of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation's Women and the Economy Forum. Around noon, over 20 activists entered the delegate-only 2nd level of the Sheraton Hotel chanting and holding signs with the message "women over profit." Although security attempted to shut down the action, activists continued chanting while marching down into the main lobby where 30 more demonstrators unfurled banners and shared a message addressing the failures of APEC. Eventually the assembly marched outside and joined with more demonstrators condemning the neoliberal policies which APEC promotes.

Outside the hotel, the International Women's Alliance (IWA) held a "Peoples' Women and the Economy Forum" featuring women from tech, labor, environmental, food sovereignty, healthcare, and migrant sectors who exposed the failures of APEC's Women and the Economy Forum to meet the needs of women around the region. IWA, a global alliance of grassroots women's organizations, emphasized that APEC's proposed measures of pushing women into markets and into low-paying jobs ignores the material needs of a majority of women in the Asia-Pacific region.

Katie, US coordinator for IWA, directly addressed some of the women who participated in the APEC summit inside the hotel: "To Jen Klein and the rest of the Gender Policy Council: how dare you claim that you have improved the lives of women when we are being jailed for having abortions, when women in detention facilities are raped and sterilized, when our public benefits that help us feed our families are being cut? Your Gender Policy Council only serves as propaganda for an administration who has held women's rights hostage to gain votes! We know that you represent the interests of the corporations that most exploit and oppress us. Stop taking money from Amazon, from Boeing, from Cargill, from Meta, and start listening to the people's demands: put women over profit!"

Katie continued, “When APEC says that women are an untapped resource and the solution is access to capital, it wrongly excludes that groups like APEC are the reason why women are poor in the first place! We know our needs and we are here to demand them because wherever APEC goes the people fight back!”

Other speakers emphasized the dire conditions facing migrant women as well as the necessity for women to organize themselves as workers in order to fight back against the corporations who profit off the suffering and exploitation of working and peasant and working women around the world.

Speakers ended the rally with calls to join mobilizations in San Francisco in November to oppose APEC’s final round of meetings in the US this year and to directly confront heads of state who will be attending, including Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos, Joe Biden, Jokowi, Dina Boularte, and many more. After declaring their action a success, the crowd of 100+ people marched together away from the Sheraton chanting “No to APEC!” and “We will be back!”