

An open letter to the elected leaders of the City and County of Los Angeles

We represent the public sector unions whose members were surveyed as part of the attached report, "**An Ongoing Demand for Los Angeles: A Bright Future Requires Organizing More Black Public Sector Union Workers.**"

The report tells two very important stories:

First, that unionized public sector jobs are critical to the health of Los Angeles County's Black communities.

Second, that Black workers and our communities stand to lose enormously from threats to those unions.

Unionized Black workers earn more than our non-union counterparts. Black public sector workers report more stable communities and longer careers. Higher wages and better benefits allow us to care for our families. Black workers make up a higher proportion of public sector workers, and public sector workers make up a higher proportion of Black communities.

We serve the public twice—by day, through our jobs and at night through the dependability of those jobs to provide for our families and be active members in our communities.

Nationally, we face attacks. The *Janus v. AFSCME* decision made by the U.S. Supreme Court last year declared open season on public sector unions. Many understood it as part of a decades-long campaign against the public sector overall. It should also be understood as an attack on Black life.

As elected leaders, you set public policies to increase the health and welfare of millions, and you act as employer to thousands. Without a doubt, public sector employment has led to generations of strength and health in Black communities throughout Los Angeles. We present this report in the spirit of partnership in order to find public policy avenues to expand on pathways for Black workers to the good public sector jobs that are a pillar of Black community health.

Yours in solidarity,

AFSCME District Council 36
SEIU 721
SEIU 1000

Contact: Organizing Department, Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO • organize@thelafed.org • 213 381-5611 x16

"An Ongoing Demand for Los Angeles: A Bright Future Requires Organizing More Black Public Sector Union Workers"
was produced in collaboration between:



**LOS ANGELES
BLACK WORKER
CENTER**

