

LU BULLETIN

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workers from all industries learn how to lobby to in Springfield to secure better protections for all workers

200+ Prepare To Head To The State Capital

Wednesday, January 24 - Yaritza had already worked as a childcare worker for over a month, and still hadn't seen any sort of pay. When she confronted the employer, the childcare center owner gave her two options - accept being paid less than minimum wage, or she'd call immigration.

At the moment, the city of Chicago doesn't consider these types of threats to be illegal. Even though 1.7 million immigrants are estimated to be living in Chicago, there exist no protections for folks like Yaritza.

This is why the worker center coalition, better known as Raise The Floor (RTF) has proposed "Work Without Fear", a law which seeks to protect the immigrant community and avoid its exploitation.

As part of this coalition, The Latino Union of Chicago, prepared to go lobbying at the state Capital, in Springfield. The practice of making our representatives accountable to us is a right that should be accessible to all. Which is why Raise The Floor initiated a push to train a great number of workers (continued on page 2)

who would know how to demand that representatives lend their support for “Work Without Fear”.

On the evening of January 24th, 9 worker centers across Chicagoland came together to a lobbying teach-in. At the end of that night, over 150 people had been trained to demand better protections for the immigrant community. In the following weeks, an additional 50 persons had succeeded in being trained. With the backing of the people, we hope to pass the policy, and end stories like those of Yaritza.



Climate Change: What Does This Mean for Our Workers?

According to a recent report by the Chicago Tribune, Chicago is the 2nd city with the worst air quality in the US. This is due in part to a summer that experienced high wildfire residues but this is not an isolated event. This winter also turned out to be the warmest winter in 92 years, which included tornado warnings outside their typical season (April-June).

What legal protections do we have?

There are currently no laws that protect workers that are exposed to high levels of air pollution in Chicago or Illinois, nor at the federal level. Although, there are laws in New Jersey and California regarding air quality in workplaces.



What is being done?

The Chicago Air Quality Ordinance was passed in 2021, which requires a formal City review process and seeks to expand public participation opportunities for zoning, public health, and transportation implications of many types of industrial and industrial operations. intensive manufacturing.



The Chicago Department of Public Health and other community partners including the Little Village Environmental Justice Organization, The Center for Neighborhood Technology and UIC are co-leading



a community air monitoring network strategy with the goal of achieving a sustainable network and creating a unified public platform for air quality data.



Beyond environmental events:

The environmental events we are experiencing are tied to and accelerated by large conglomerate industries. But our communities are also affected by local industries, just as Little Village was affected by the demolition of the smokestack of the former Crawford coal plant on April 11, 2020. This implosion covered the community in dust, endangering the health of residents just beginning the COVID-19 pandemic.

What happened when the community came together to ensure that their human rights to decent air quality were respected? Little Village had until March 26 of this year to file compensation claims against Hilco Redevelopment, after the company reached a \$12 million settlement in a class action lawsuit.

This marks a great achievement but much remains to be done to obtain legal protections at the city and state level that protect the community versus industries and employers.

What can we do?

A neighborhood-level air monitoring network would be a great achievement, but we need protections that include legal consequences for employers for failing to comply. We know that our community works in dangerous conditions that put their health at risk.

We have to make collective decisions with our membership, coalitions and community. These may include passing ordinances that protect our community, such as providing protective equipment and limiting outdoor exposure when weather conditions do not allow it.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

Community Dinner

Office of Latino Union>>>

Wednesday, April 3, 5:30-7:30 PM

Member Orientation

Office of Latino Union>>>

Saturday, April 13, 1:00-3:00 PM

Membership Assembly

North River Commission

3403 W Lawrence Ave # 301, Chicago, IL 60625>>>

Thursday, April 18, 6:00-8:00 PM

Household Worker's Meeting

Office of Latino Union>>>

Friday, April, 6:00-7:30 PM

City Key Event

Office of Latino Union>>>

Tuesday, April 23, 12:00-4:00 PM

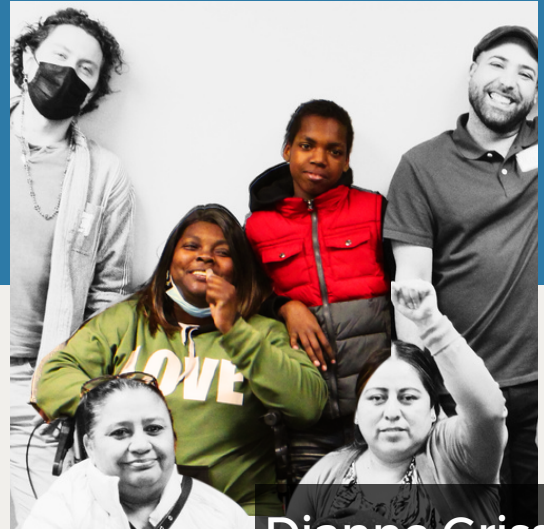
[If you need help filling out the documentation, you can come to the office the day before (April 22) between 6-8 PM and we will help you!]

CPR Workshop

Office of Latino Union>>>

Saturday, May 18, 10:00 AM-12:30 PM

MEMBER Q & A



Dianne Grissett

Q: What is Chicago's best event?

A: It's hard to choose between Gospel Fest or the Taste of Chicago. Those funnel cakes they have are too good!

Q: What would you say to someone interested in learning about Latino Union?

A: This organization has taught me how to – respect my work, make sure clients pay me for the value of my work, and be the better person I am today.

Q: Most fun, free, thing to do in Chicago?

A: Take the kids to Lincoln Park Zoo and see all the animals!

Q: What would you like to see improve for the domestic worker community?

A: I would like to see us get the respect we deserve and be treated better. I would like to see workers get paid better wages.

Q: Something folks don't know about you?

A: I stand up against injustice and and fight for what is right and what I believe in!

**WE DO THIS
FOR OUR WORKING
COMMUNITIES**



SUPPORT DAY LABORERS,
DONATE TO LATINO UNION.