



# SERVICE EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION AFL-CIO, CLC

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## Historic Latino Organizing Drive!

HOUSTON, TEXAS...On May 31, 1985, 75% of the cleaning crew at American Building Maintenance Company (ABM) decided that their annual salary of \$3,500, the lack of job security, no health or life insurance and general abuse by company supervisors could no longer be tolerated. They took a historic step and voted overwhelmingly to become Service Employee Union members (SEIU) in hopes of improving their working conditions.

This marks the first time in the history of downtown Houston that a group of building service workers elected to wage a struggle on their own behalf. Of equal significance is that the work force is composed almost entirely of Chicanos, Mexicanos, and Salvadoreans. We hope that their unity and strength will inspire the almost 50,000 building service workers throughout Houston to organize and fight for better wages and working conditions.

However, in order to make this victory a total one, SEIU must now seek recognition from ABM certifying SEIU as the workers' exclusive bargaining agent. ABM has filed objections to the election which we consider frivolous and merely designed to prolong recognition of the union in hopes that the workers' resolve will diminish. Moreover, the supervisors continue to apply subtle pressure on the workers who are known to be Union supporters.

We need your support immediately to show the Company and the workers that these courageous individuals are not alone and in fact viewed and respected as an important component of the entire community which we will encourage and protect.

Our first request is that you or your organization sign the attached petition and or send a letter to the Company making them aware of your concern and vigilance of the workers' plight. After the October 3rd hearing, at which time the objections to our election victory will be litigated, we will have a clearer idea of what we need to do to assure that the ABM workers' exercise in democracy was not futile but rather an affirmation of the notion that the United States is indeed an egalitarian and just nation that respects duly conducted elections.

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