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**Security Officers, Black Clergy,  
Community Groups From South L.A. to  
Launch Intensive One-Week Worker  
Outreach Drive to Fight Poverty  
Conditions in Private Security Industry**

**'Five Days for Freedom' Mobilization Will Reach More  
Than 600 Major Office Buildings and Unite Thousands  
of Security Officers by End of June**

LOS ANGELES, June 26 /PRNewswire/ -- In an effort that some of the city's black leaders say could turn thousands of dead-end, low-wage jobs into good jobs and transform some of the city's hardest hit neighborhoods, union security officers from New York City, Chicago, San Francisco and other U.S. cities are joining forces with South Los Angeles clergy and community groups in a massive outreach to lift thousands of L.A.'s hard-working security officers out of poverty.

The Five Days for Freedom mobilization to unite thousands of security officers started today when teams were dispatched from Bethel AME Church in South Los Angeles out to more than 600 major office buildings throughout Los Angeles County from Long Beach to Ventura and Santa Monica to the Valley.

"Freedom can't wait," said Rev. Dr. Lewis E. Logan II, Senior Pastor of Bethel AME Church. "We need good jobs for black workers, not wealthy corporate landlords throwing crumbs to our community. With the full force and commitment from the black community and labor working together, we can turn these jobs around."

Nearly 70 percent of security officers in L.A. are African American and although they protect lives and multi-million dollar properties, they go home to L.A.'s most impoverished communities. If L.A.'s multibillion-dollar-a-year real estate industry paid security officers the same wages and benefits it has agreed to pay janitors, it would bring an estimated \$100 million more a year into South Los Angeles, where most of the security officers live.

Stand for Security Coalition teams of officers, clergy and community members will be asking officers to sign cards as part of the "majority sign-up," a fair and democratic process for workers to freely choose a union with Service Employees International Union (SEIU).

"In a city with the greatest disparity between rich and poor, the L.A. security officers' drive is an unmistakable call for equal opportunity and the freedom of all workers to rise up and out of poverty," said Andy Stern, President of Service Employees International Union (SEIU), who last week talked with officers who protect downtown high-rises. "With the same wealthy landlords in every city, the L.A. security officers' historic effort has the potential to transform the jobs and communities of more than 100,000 workers across the country, most of whom are African American."

The national, community-based campaign to organize security officers is one of the largest movements of mostly black workers in history. Security officers are also organizing with SEIU -- the nation's largest security officers' union -- in New York City, San Francisco Bay Area, Sacramento, Seattle, Chicago, Minneapolis/St. Paul, Milwaukee, Boston, and Washington, D.C.

More than two thirds of the commercial office buildings in Los Angeles are owned and/or managed by companies who already use SEIU-represented security officers to protect their buildings in other cities. More than 80 percent of the security contractors operating in Los Angeles are already cooperatively raising industry standards with SEIU represented officers in other U.S. cities.

Until recently, L.A's leading corporate landlords denied security officers' civil right and freedom to form the union of their choice with SEIU. But now Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa has called on the city's real estate industry to upgrade security in buildings and improve working conditions for our city's hard-working security officers.

The independently certified majority sign-up process is increasingly being utilized by employers and employees as a fair and democratic method for employees to freely choose whether or not they want to form a union. With a majority sign-up, a majority of all employees must sign cards clearly indicating support for a union before the employer is required to recognize the union.

Los Angeles' African American community groups and clergy participating in Five Days for Freedom include ACORN, African American Collaborative, A. Philip Randolph Institute, Bus Riders Union, Clergy and Laity United For Economic Justice, Community Coalition, Community Call to Action and Accountability, Gangsters for Christ, NAACP, New Frontier Democratic Club, Pathways for Our Future, Ron Brown Democratic Club, Southern Christian Leadership Conference, The Organization US, and more (partial list).

For more information, visit <http://www.StandForSecurity.org>