

**RESOLUTION STANDING IN SOLIDARITY WITH COLUMBIA COLLEGE
ADJUNCT FACULTY AS THEY NEGOTIATE A NEW CONTRACT WITH COLUMBIA
COLLEGE CHICAGO**

WHEREAS, nearly 600 members of the Columbia Faculty Union (CFAC, IFT/AFT/AFL-CIO Local 6602) work as adjunct part-time faculty at Columbia College; and

WHEREAS, adjunct faculty teach the majority of classes at Columbia College Chicago; and

WHEREAS, Columbia College Chicago is an important institution of higher learning in Chicago and prides itself on being able to offer instruction from professionals who work in their craft and teach part-time; and

WHEREAS, Columbia College Chicago is a private institution that receives substantial public financial support; and

WHEREAS, according to the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, last year alone, Columbia College Chicago students were awarded 2,060 MAP grants amounting to \$9,669,364; and

WHEREAS, CFAC's contract with Columbia College Chicago expired in August 2023; and

WHEREAS, two weeks before the start of the 2023 fall semester, Columbia College Chicago eliminated over 300 classes taught by part-time faculty claiming financial distress; and

WHEREAS, despite Columbia College Chicago's financial distress claims, top administrators received large bonuses, and from 2019-2022 the College increased administrative spending by \$6 million while decreasing spending on educational activities by roughly \$8 million; and

WHEREAS, despite being in bargaining with CFAC, Columbia leaders made no effort to inform the faculty of the plan to cut classes or to bargain a better solution; and

WHEREAS, in response to Columbia College Chicago's actions, the CFAC filed Unfair Labor Practice charges with the National Labor Relations Board; and

WHEREAS, members of the CFAC voted overwhelmingly to authorize a strike and began their strike on October 30, 2023;

WHEREAS, the CFAC strike is the longest adjunct teachers strike in US history; and

WHEREAS, Columbia College Chicago is raising class sizes across campus to make up for the classes it cut, which negatively impacts student learning and students connection to their professors; and

WHEREAS, despite the parties bargaining with the assistance of a federal mediator, Columbia College Chicago threatened to permanently replace for the Spring semester about 600 union members who teach nearly 70 percent of the classes on this campus; and

WHEREAS, CFAC is calling on the administration to restore slashed courses, maintain class sizes that support educational success and emotional well-being of their students, provide equitable access to job security, and negotiate in good faith with CFAC;

WHEREAS, Columbia College leaders need to settle a fair contract with CFAC immediately so that students can resume their educations, and

WHEREAS, Chicago is a proud Union Town, now, therefore,

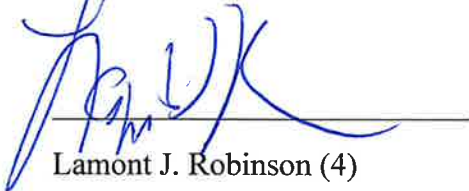
BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, stand in steadfast solidarity with the Columbia Faculty Union in their fight for a fair contract and for the world-class education their students deserve.



Maria E. Hadden (49)



Michael D. Rodriguez (22)



Lamont J. Robinson (4)