On 12/16/19, window cleaners met with the companies for a second negotiation.

The companies proposed some serious steps backwards:

1) The companies proposed to have all buildings considered “on site starts”.
2) Columbia proposed to create an “off season”, when some types of work would be excluded from the contract (specifically not paying pension for time doing snow work.)

The union rejected these proposals, and proposed a series of compromises about two smaller articles in the contract:

1) Better Grievance procedure: (article 23) to remove discipline after 12 months from your files and extend the investigation period for a grievance to 30 days.
2) Sick days (article 12) paid at 6 per year (Columbia already does the equivalent to this, but final touch only pays 2 per year)
3) The company agreed to add 2 days unpaid bereavement leave for aunts, uncles, nieces/nephews.

The next bargaining date is set for 4pm on January 21st, when the companies said they would bring their economic proposal. It is clear that window cleaners will need to be strong to prevent these takeaways, and to win a fair contract.

Next Steps:

Upcoming Bargaining Dates: January 21st @4pm
Mpls Rally for Fair Contract: January 21 Rally @Hennepin County Gov Center @11:30am
For more information, talk to your steward, find us on Facebook.com/seiu26, or call 1 855 265-6225

"Today we talked about winter work, onsite starts and sick days. We are going to fight so they accept our proposals"
-Mateo Jardines, Final Touch
Contract Negotiations Reflections: SEIU26 Members Are United! Fighting Today for a #BetterTomorrow

Nov 29th: Stand with Mpls Retail Cleaners on Black Friday!
60 members and allies rallied at the Quarry Shopping center calling for better wages, benefits, and contracts for Retail Cleaners. SEIU26 Retail cleaners had a historic win two years ago with their first contract, and on December 12th opened negotiations on their second contract. Despite being employed by subcontractors to clean the stores of many of Minnesota’s best known brands, the majority of these cleaners make just $11.65 per hour.

Dec 7th: Member Carnival!
On Saturday December 7th, over 800 SEIU Local 26 members and their families came together at our union hall for a wonderful holiday party. There was food, games and a chance to take a break from our huge contract campaign to have some fun. We love our union because we are Minnesota. The beautiful diversity of our state is represented in our union. We know those in power try to divide us by the color or our skin or where we were born or the job we do to keep us from uniting to win what we deserve, but our union family shows the power of coming together across our differences to win a better world so all families – no exceptions – can live, not just survive. SEIU Local 26 members are fighting today for a #BetterTomorrow!

Dec 16th: St. Paul Worker Rally for Good Jobs!
150 union members, union friends, and supporters marched from Town Square to City Hall in St. Paul - fighting for jobs that support joyful families, homes we're proud to live in, work that keeps us healthy and a clean planet for our kids. Our sisters in the struggle, Erin Murphy, running for State Senate, and Emma Greenman, running for State House, joined us in our call for better sick time benefits, an end to wage theft, and better contracts for all union property service workers. We stood unified across sectors and it was beautiful.

See you on January 21st: Minneapolis Rally for Good Jobs @Hennepin County Government Center @11:30am