

NEWS



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Councilmembers Parks, Wesson, Perry, Call On Billion-Dollar Real Estate Owner To Support Security Officers

LOS ANGELES -- City Council voted unanimously in favor of a resolution introduced by Bernard Parks (D-8) and Jan Perry (D-9) calling on real estate giant Jamison Properties to raise standards for private security officers and janitors by using responsible contractors.

Four thousand predominately African American security officers are currently bargaining for a historic contract with the largest security companies in the city. Jamison Properties hires Pacwest Security, the only major security company not participating in the talks, to protect Brunswig Square, Adams Plaza, Cerritos Corporate Square, and other commercial buildings.

"Jamison Properties is the only major L.A. owner that hires non-union contractors for security and janitorial services," said City Councilmember Bernard Parks. "The majority of other building owners use responsible security companies that are negotiating for a security contract that will raise standards across the city, and we urge Jamison Properties to do the same."

Jamison Properties owns more than 50 commercial buildings worth over \$3 billion dollars and is the second largest commercial real estate owner in the city. The City spends almost \$50 million tax-dollars a year to lease space in Jamison-owned offices.

"It is in everyone's interest to have the well-trained and fairly compensated security officers we all need," said City Councilmember Herb Wesson. "More must be done to achieve this, and the time has come for Jamison Properties and SEIU Security Officers United in Los Angeles (SOULA) to come together and reach a just and decent agreement to raise the standards for these workers."

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"It is an injustice for a corporation like Jamison Properties to be exploiting security officers, the majority of whom are African American. This resolution is but one piece in the struggle for social and economic justice for these workers, their families, and their communities," said Rev. Dr. Lewis E. Logan II, Senior Pastor of Bethel A.M.E. Church and one of the leaders of the Stand for Security Coalition.

"Jamison Properties needs to stop using non-union companies like Pacwest," said Faith Culbreath, President of SEIU Security Officers United in Los Angeles (SOULA) Local 2006. "Raising standards and using responsible union security contractors will benefit not just these workers, and the tenants they protect, but the entire city. Building owners like Jamison Properties must commit to work with SEIU, the security contractors, and the rest of the real estate industry to make the kind of substantial changes that need to happen."

"We are committed to supporting security workers and their families," said City Councilwoman Jan Perry.