OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY

CLERK DOROTHY BROWN SUPPORTS WORKERS, REVIEWS FINANCIAL DEALINGS WITH BANK OF AMERICA
Says Funds from Federal Bail-Out Should Help Keep People in Jobs

CHICAGO (December 8, 2008) -The Honorable Dorothy Brown, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County, joined the chorus of state and city government officials today, speaking up for workers staging a sit-in at the Republic Windows & Doors company, which closed on Dec. 5 following Bank of America's cancellation of its credit line.

Clerk Brown said she would look into the Cook County Clerk of the Circuit Court's dealings with Bank of America and consider what action may be taken to support Governor Rod Blagojevich's and several Chicago Aldermen's call for government agencies to suspend business with the bank until it restores credit to the company.

The 250 workers, members of the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers Union, are demanding vacation and severance pay from Republic Windows & Doors company. Gov. Blagojevich stated that Bank of America has received $15 billion from the U.S. Treasury as part of the government's $700 billion rescue package, and that those fund were intended to extend credit to Republic Windows and other companies, thereby retaining jobs. President-elect Barack Obama also weighed in on the issue, stating that if the workers earned their benefits and pay, the company needs to follow through on its commitment.

Clerk Brown said, "This is an example of the Wall Street bail-out failing to reach the people on Main Street, and we have to send a message to the banks that this is not acceptable. I agree that the rescue package has to be, first and foremost, about keeping people in jobs."

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