

**American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees**  
*One strong united voice for Minnesota workers*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Hennepin County AFSCME Locals 34 and 2822 File Intent to Strike**

**South St. Paul, MN** - AFSCME Council 5 Executive Director Julie Bleyhl released the following statement after Hennepin County AFSCME Locals 34 and 2822 filed intent to strike notices:

"On the morning of January 19, 2022, AFSCME Locals 34 and 2822 filed a formal intent to strike with the Bureau of Mediation Services.

"AFSCME Locals 34 and 2822, representing more than 3,550 Hennepin County employees have worked round the clock to reach an agreement with Hennepin County, to no avail. Our members call for dignity and respect and their work to be truly valued.

"Workers in AFSCME Locals 34 and 2822 are Social Workers, Human Service Representatives, Service Center Representatives, Public Health Nurses, Sentence to Service Crewleaders, Legal Secretaries, Library Specialists, Medical Assistants, Financial Case Aides, Dental Hygienists and Assistants, Community Health Workers, Hennepin Health Representatives, Sheriffs Office Records Clerks, and more, staffing every department of Hennepin County. These workers truly Make Hennepin County Happen. Many of these union members have worked on the frontlines of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, providing critical County services to residents of Hennepin County. The services provided by these 3,550 workers ensures our community members are supported, safe, and able to thrive.

"The inability of Hennepin County to meet the needs of our members who keep Hennepin County running, resulted in two of our local unions filing an intent to strike. The table team from our local unions will continue to work to return to mediation inside of the statutory ten-day cooling off period and attempt to avert a strike. We call on Hennepin County management to come to the table in good faith and reach an agreement that ultimately avoids a strike and values the work of our members."

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*AFSCME Council 5 is a labor union representing more than 43,000 workers across Minnesota. We advocate for excellence in services to the public, dignity in the workplace, and opportunity and prosperity for all workers.*