

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 12, 2017**

Contacts: 646-530-4656

Juanita Howard, Staff Organizer, CIR,

[jhoward@cirseiu.org](mailto:jhoward@cirseiu.org);

John Gerow, President, Teamsters Local 97;

[teamsterslocal.ninetyseven@verizon.net](mailto:teamsterslocal.ninetyseven@verizon.net)

## **Unions File with US DOL Charging Rutgers with Violating Federal Law by not Paying Employees One Week's Salary**

NEW BRUNSWICK — Today, unions representing thousands of Rutgers employees filed charges with the US Department of Labor accusing the University of violating federal wage and hour laws. The unions joined with the Teamsters in calling on US DOL to order Rutgers to pay monies owed to employees and to pay fines for the University's unlawful withholding of pay.

In October 2016, after switching payroll systems, Rutgers illegally withheld one week's salary from employees who were formerly employed by the University of Medicine and Dentistry. Unions representing these employees - the Committee of Interns and Residents/SEIU (CIR/SEIU) Teamsters Local 97, the Communication Workers of America Local 1031 and the American Association of University Professors – Biomedical and Health Sciences of New Jersey (AAUP-BHSNJ) - have joined together to demand that the University pay their members the missing week of pay. The four unions represent housekeepers, clerical staff, doctors, clinicians, scientists, librarians, and operations and maintenance staff, employed throughout the University.

CWA Local 1031 Vice President Kathy Hernandez stated that “We estimate that Rutgers is withholding over \$500,000 in wages due its employees.”

“This is nothing less than wage theft,” said Juanita Howard, Contract Organizer at CIR/SEIU, “Rutgers has the ability to make these payments and our members should be paid immediately.”

“Let’s be clear: Rutgers knows that these employees have been shortchanged. In today’s era of electronic paychecks, there should be no delay in issuing an immediate paycheck for the missing week to employees,” said Ilyssa DeCasperis, Executive Director of the AAUP-BHSNJ.

“It is unacceptable that the University has not rectified this in over two months. The University would rather spend money litigating about monies that it clearly owes its employees than pay its hardworking employees,” said John J. Gerow, President of Teamsters Local 97. Added Local 97’s Vice President and Director of Medical Health Services Amy Lewis, “The Teamsters and the other unions have always bargained in good faith with Rutgers and expect nothing less from Rutgers.”