FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The City of New Haven Announces National Home Care Day on September 4

NEW HAVEN, Conn. – New Haven Mayor Justin Elicker joined many leaders across the country, acknowledging home care workers with the announcement of the first annual National Home Care Day, today, September 4, 2020.

“I don’t know where we would be without our home health care workers,” stated New Haven Mayor Justin Elicker. “Their jobs are so important to the well-being of many individuals in the country, and with the COVID-19 pandemic, it really highlights just how important they are to us as a society. I want to thank not just our SEIU 1199 NE members on this day but all home health care workers out there every day, ensuring the safety and health of our residents and putting themselves at risk of COVID-19 exposure. You are our heroes,” he concluded.

The City of New Haven is home to exactly 700 home care workers who are members of SEIU 1199 NE, made up of 26,000 health care workers in Connecticut and Rhode Island. SEIU, founded in 1921, has nearly two million members nationally and is the second-largest labor union in the United States. There are 1,595 total SEIU 1199 members in the Elm City.

It is reported by SEIU that 87 percent of home care workers are women, and more than half are women of color (Backus, 2020). It is important that home care workers get much needed personal protective equipment and access to basic benefits like paid sick and family leave. These workers are, oftentimes, forced to make a choice between risking significant exposure to COVID-19 from clients or trying to make ends meet by continuing working. While SEIU 1199 home care workers all make at least $15 per hour, many nonunion home care workers still make as little as $12/hour and are reliant on the State’s incremental increase in the minimum wage up to $15/hour in 2023.
“For far too long, home care workers have been working in the shadows of our communities providing essential care so seniors and people with disabilities can live with dignity and independence at home,” said Terrell Williams, a home care worker in New Haven for over a decade. “I want to thank Mayor Elicker for honoring the valuable work of home care workers and the need to lift up good, union caregiving jobs to support the growing demand for quality, affordable long-term care in our state,” he concluded.

The City of New Haven stands with home care workers, especially in this deeply challenging time for all, by honoring them today for their dedication to the health and well-being of others.

For more information on SEIU 1199 NE:

*Today, 26,000 health care workers in Connecticut and Rhode Island are united together in District 1199* — including nurses, direct care workers, CNAs, cooks, case managers, therapists, doctors, maintenance staff, home care workers, and more.

Taking action together has always been how health care workers have won improvements — whether we’re in contract negotiations for a raise, at work defending someone being treated unfairly, or lobbying at the State Capitol for safe staffing levels.

See more at [www.seiu1199ne.org](http://www.seiu1199ne.org).

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