

Local 79 wants early return to jobs: boss

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Striking indoor workers want to get back on the job tomorrow and don't want to wait for a city council vote scheduled for Friday, union boss Ann Dembinski told a late-evening news conference yesterday.

Workers at Local 79, which represents 24,000 indoor city workers, and at Local 416, which represents 6,000 outdoor workers, were scheduled to hold ratification votes today on a contract agreement reached earlier this week, while city council is expected to vote on Friday.

If passed, the agreement will resolve a six-week-old strike.

Ms. Dembinski expects the indoor workers union to vote in favour of the agreement, but said waiting until Friday for the city to vote is unnecessary and out of character.

During a Local 79 strike in 2000, workers were asked to return to work immediately after a tentative agreement was reached, she said.

"We're anxious to be back at work. We'd like to be back on the job Thursday morning," she said.

"There is no reason for council to delay the resumption of these services."

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