



Rita, Feigenholtz praise Quinn, Emanuel McCormick Place labor deal

David Ormsby, Springfield Political Buzz Examiner

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(Chicago, IL) -- Chicago Mayor **Rahm Emanuel** and Illinois Governor **Pat Quinn** on Friday announced agreements with two McCormick Place labor unions that will end the uncertainty surrounding convention business reforms struck down by a court, an agreement that drew praise from local lawmakers.

"The Chicago convention tourism industry and all the thousands of workers its employs are the most important winners in the McCormick Place agreement that Governor Quinn and Mayor Emanuel brokered with organized labor," said State Rep. **Bob Rita** (D-Chicago)

"This deal means jobs for the Chicago metropolitan region."

"I applaud Governor Quinn and Mayor Emanuel's cooperation and determination to secure a labor agreement that ensure the viability of Chicago convention tourism industry," said State Rep. **Sara Feigenholtz** (D-Chicago).

Settlements reached with the Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters and Teamsters Local 727 will end their federal lawsuits challenging some of the reform measures passed into law in 2010. Those reforms had been backed by industry groups who have pushed for years for measures that would keep Chicago competitive with other convention cities.

"I am grateful that labor is our partner in implementing these reforms that will keep thousands of Chicagoans working, save exhibitors money and ensure our city remains a competitive destination and leader in the convention and tradeshow industry," said Emanuel.

Under the agreements, exhibitors will be able to perform their own work in any size booth, using their own ladders or hand tools, cordless tools and power tools. Exhibitors will also be allowed to load and unload their own vehicles. Additionally, two-person work crews will be able used instead of the three-person crews required previously.

"These historic reforms will save exhibitors money by giving them the flexibility they need and help to attract even more shows to Illinois, while making sure the many hard-working men and women who support McCormick Place stay on the job," Quinn said.

Other reforms remain, including reduced parking rates, lower food and beverage pricing, enhanced menu options, and free Wi-Fi access. Show organizers will also be allowed to choose electrical service providers from a list of approved vendors.

“Our members remain committed to keeping McCormick Place a sought-after venue for conventions from around the country,” said **John Coli**, President of Teamsters Joint Council 25. “This agreement clears the way for McPier to continue to grow its business.”

"This is an important win for our local economy," said Feigenholtz.

The Illinois Convention and Tourism industry supports 66,000 jobs and generates \$8 billion in spending each year, according to Emanuel.