



PRESS RELEASE

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When “New Jobs” Aren’t New

As Thousands Demand Job Creation, Motorola Solutions and the Mayor Answer the Call—But Do They Really Mean It?

CHICAGO, IL – On June 14, as thousands of working Chicagoans rallied outside the CFO Executive Summit in the Loop to demand that rich corporations invest in job creation, the Mayor’s office and Motorola Solutions made an announcement that seemed to answer that call.

The announcement, that Motorola Solutions would be adding 400 jobs to Chicago in the next 18 months, was widely cited by both TV and print media sources as an example both of Mayor Emanuel’s success in bringing new jobs to the city and of Motorola’s commitment to investing in Chicago.

But according to the Mayor’s official press release—and a spokesperson for Motorola Solutions—many of these celebrated new jobs may not be so new after all.

The second to last line of the Mayor’s press release states that some of the positions “will be relocations, and some of them will be new hires.”

In response to an email query from Stand Up! Chicago, Motorola Solutions Vice President of Global Communications Nicholas Sweers confirmed that the company has yet to determine how many of the ‘new’ jobs will be new hires and how many will be relocations of existing employees.

When Motorola Solutions chairman and CEO Greg Brown stated last week that the company was “pleased to announce we will bring more jobs to the city,” his words brought a glimmer of hope to thousands of unemployed Chicagoans. But if a sizable number of these jobs end up being relocations, they will have little if any impact on the city’s unemployment figure.

“If you take an existing position and you move that position and the person who holds that position to Chicago, that’s not job creation,” commented Bob Bruno, a professor in the School of Labor and Employment Relations at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. “When you say ‘more jobs,’ there’s a general understanding that you’re moving people from unemployment to employment. If these are relocations, then that’s not true.”

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