THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

MARNI VON WILPERT

COUNCILMEMBER • FIFTH DISTRICT

April 10, 2024

Christopher D. Howard
President and Chief Executive Officer
Sharp HealthCare
chris.howard@sharp.com
751 Medical Center Ct
Chula Vista, CA 91911

Scott Evans
Chief Executive Officer Regional Hospitals
Sharp HealthCare
scott.evans@sharp.com
751 Medical Center Ct
Chula Vista, CA 91911

Dear Mr. Howard and Mr. Evans,

I am writing to let you know that as the District 5 representative on the San Diego City Council, I support healthcare workers at Sharp Chula Vista Hospital in their efforts to join their fellow Sharp Grossmont coworkers in the SEIU United Healthcare Workers West union.

Sharp Chula Vista workers tell me that they are concerned by below-market wages and years of understaffing that have impacted patient care and increased worker burnout. They are organizing for the power to have a real voice on the job to address these issues and ensure that they are fully supported in providing high-quality care to our San Diego community.

When labor and management work together in a partnership we see clear gains for all parties, and real solutions that can lead to better quality of care for patients and healthier communities overall. One example the joint efforts by SEIU-UHW and Sharp HealthCare to increase Medi-Cal funding levels so that our healthcare system has the money it needs to improve access, affordability, and quality.

I urge Sharp Chula Vista management to respect the rights of Sharp employees to decide for themselves if they want to form a union. Instead of spending resources to deter workers from voting to join a union, Sharp management should instead spend those resources on recruitment and retention of healthcare workers and patient care. I also urge Sharp to swiftly negotiate any collective bargaining agreements to help reduce worker burnout and increase the quality of patient care.

Thank you for the excellent healthcare Sharp provides to the San Diego region. As a Sharp patient myself, I hope you will find common ground with SEIU-UHW to achieve better outcomes for your workers, their patients, and the entire community of San Diego.

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Sincerely,

Marni von Wilpert
San Diego City Councilmember, District 5

CC: Brett McClain, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer
(brett.mcclain@sharp.com)

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