Friday, April 12th, 2024

Dear Mr. Howard and Mr. Evans,

I am writing to let you know that as an elected member of National 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 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 are able to 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 of this is 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.

It is, therefore, disappointing to hear that these brave frontline healthcare workers have faced active efforts by Sharp Chula Vista management to intimidate and discourage them from uniting with the 1,600 union healthcare workers at Sharp Grossmont and Sharp Hospice Care.

Responsibility now lies with Sharp Chula Vista management to respect the rights of your employees to decide for themselves if they want to form a union. Sharp management must immediately stop all harassment and intimidation tactics that are aimed at deterring workers from voting to form a union.

I hope you will do the right thing and partner with SEIU-UHW to achieve better outcomes for these workers, their patients, and the entire community of San Diego.

Thank You,

Jose Rodriguez

Jose Rodriguez, Council Member
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