

**CORRESPONDENCE
FROM
MAY 4, 2020
CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

Martinez, Ruben

From: Grace Dyrness - Urban Initiatives <GraceDyrness@Urban-Initiatives.org>
Sent: Sunday, May 03, 2020 1:11 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: Support Hospitality Worker Protections: Item #14

CAUTION: This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you know the content is safe.

Dear Honorable Mayor and City Council:

Thousands of hard-working hospitality workers, many who live in Pasadena, have lost their jobs. Unlike Santa Monica and Los Angeles, Pasadena has no law ensuring that these workers can return to their jobs when the coronavirus crisis ends. Such lack of protections have a profound impact on workers at hotels like the Chateau Marmont in Hollywood.

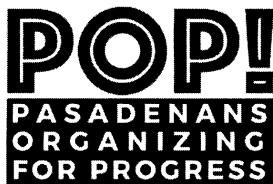
According to worker reports, the Chateau Marmont emailed workers that they would be terminated, losing health insurance and no commitment to hire them back. Walter Almandarez worked at the hotel for 23 years: "I'm fighting to help pass a law to give workers protections in the hopes that when the crisis is over I'll be able to get back to my job...I'm very, very worried."

Your role in this crisis is to answer the worries of hardworking working people like Walter. Please support a similar worker recall and retention policy to workers here in Pasadena, Item #14 on the Council Agenda. As a member of All Saints Church I call on us as a city to do the moral and right thing. Workers have made Pasadena into the city it is. Let's stand by them.

Warm regards.
Grace Dyrness

Grace R. Dyrness
Institute for Transnational Research and Development
www.urban-initiatives.org
626.675.8245

"There is a crucifixion on every corner and a resurrection on every block." (Fr. Dean Brackley, S.J.)



Pablo Alvarado
*National Day Laborer
Organizing Network*

Florence Annang
Co-chair
THRIVE Learning Lab

Julieta Aragon
Pasadena Community Job Center

Kimberly Douglas
Co-Chair
Pasadena Northwest Commission

**Elbie (Skip)
Hickambottom**
Civil Rights Lawyer

Mark Maier
*Professor
Glendale Community College*

Kris Ockershauser –
*Coalition for Increased Civilian
Oversight of Pasadena Police
(CICOPP)*

Rev. Hannah Petrie –
Unitarian Universalist Minister

Juliana Serrano
All Saints Church

Ed Washatka
ACT Treasurer

Office/Mailing Address

POP!
c/o NDLO
1030 S. Arroyo Parkway
Suite 106
Pasadena, CA 91101

Phone: (626) 531-1041

RECEIVED

May 3, 2020

2020 MAY -4 AM 8:23

CITY CLERK
CITY OF PASADENA

Honorable Mayor, Pasadena City Council Members, and City Manager,

Pasadenans Organizing for Progress (POP!) writes in support of the proposal for a Hospitality Workplace Protections Ordinance. We have read the background provided by Unite Here Local 11, and the letters in opposition from hotels and the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce. Although we recognize the need for further study by City staff, we urge the Council to draft an ordinance similar to ones already approved in Santa Monica and Los Angeles.

Our reasons for support are as follows:

Hospitality is a key sector in the Pasadena economy from which the City benefits through the Transit Occupancy Tax. Thus it is reasonable for the Council to consider this sector in a manner different from other City businesses.

Safety and health in these workplaces is of concern not only to the hospitality workers, their families, and customers but also to the community at large. In this key sector it is vital that we prevent the spread of the Corona virus. Although hotels have taken some steps to ensure health and safety, a City ordinance would ensure that standards are uniform throughout the hospitality sector and prevent outbreaks that would impact the entire City.

Rehire rights and protection against retaliation are important for hospitality workers, providing minimal job security during these difficult economic times. Even though the industry is facing difficult economic times, there is no evidence that such protections will add substantially to their economic burden.

Handwashing, sick days, and health training will make certain that Pasadena hospitality maintains its reputation as a safe place to visit. Controlling layoffs is good labor practice. In fact, fair treatment of employees can boost morale and help when conditions improve.

Hotel executives maintain that the ordinance would replace collective bargaining. We find such arguments to be spurious since most hotels in Pasadena do not have collective bargaining. It is precisely because collective bargaining is not in place, that the protections are needed.

In summary, there are well-reasoned models from Los Angeles and Santa Monica to follow in drafting a Pasadena ordinance. These should provide guidelines for a legal, workable, and enforceable framework that will benefit the large number of hospitality workers, the customers served, and Pasadena as a whole with a model of fair treatment during difficult times

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Maier
Chair of Workers' Rights Committee

Cc: POP! Board of Directors

Martinez, Ruben

From: Philibosian, Dianne L <dianne.philibosian@csun.edu>
Sent: Monday, May 04, 2020 1:14 PM
To: Public Comment; cityclerk; Jomsky, Mark
Cc: tdseifert@aol.com
Subject: Comments for Agenda Item 14. Hospitality Workplace Protections Ordinance

CAUTION: This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you know the content is safe.

Letter to be distributed to Mayor and Members of the City Council and read during Public Comment for Agenda Item #14: Hospitality Workplace Protections Ordinance

May 4, 2020

To: Mayor Tornek and Members of the City Council, City of Pasadena
From: Dianne Philibosian, Ph.D. and Thomas D. Seifert
Former PCOC Board Chairs
Subject: Agenda Item 14. Hospitality Workplace Protections Ordinance

As former chairs and board members of the PCOC we are writing to urge the City Council to table Agenda Item 14. Hospitality Workplace Protections Ordinance. The hotels and the PCOC, adhering to best business practices, already have good plans in place to bring employees back to work as business warrants. They already ensure safe working environments as demanded by the Covid-19 situation and additional regulations and ordinances are unnecessary during this already challenging time for businesses. In many cases such an ordinance would be in conflict with existing union agreements.

We urge the City Council to consider the extraordinary challenges faced by our excellent hotels in Pasadena and do everything possible to keep them in our community and contributing to the economic health of the City.

Dianne Philibosian, Ph.D. and Thomas D. Seifert
Former PCOC Board Chairs

Dianne Philibosian, Ph.D.
Professor, Department of Recreation and Tourism Management
California State University, Northridge
Direct line/cell: 818-800-6774
18111 Nordhoff Street
Northridge, CA 91330-8269
dianne.philibosian@csun.edu

05/04/2020
Item 14