



Date: October 3, 2023

To: Honorable Mayor and Council

From: Vice Mayor Cindy Allen, Second District
Councilwoman Suely Saro, Sixth District
Councilmember Roberto Uranga, Seventh District

Subject: Resolution Supporting Kaiser Permanente Unions

NB-32

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Recommendation to request the City Attorney to draft a resolution proclaiming the City of Long Beach's support for Kaiser Permanente healthcare workers.

BACKGROUND:

Various unions representing Kaiser Permanente workers, such as SEIU United Healthcare Workers West and others in the Coalition of Kaiser Permanente Unions, have been in bargaining talks since August to raise wages and increase staffing, citing the COVID-19 Pandemic as one reason for being short-staffed. The workers are asking for a minimum wage of \$25 an hour throughout Kaiser Permanente, four-year annual raises of 6.5%, 6.5%, 5.75%, 5.75% for non-minimum wage workers, and an increase in staffing. The workers have authorized a strike if they do not reach an agreement by September 30th. The strike would last three days and begin on October 4th.

The unions cite multiple reasons for their proposals. Kaiser workers are struggling to afford basic necessities due to inflation and the high cost of living, especially in southern California. The healthcare worker shortage has also contributed to staff being overworked, often having to do the job of multiple workers. They further cite record profits made by Kaiser Permanente in the last five years as proof that they can contribute more to raising workers' wages and fixing the staffing crisis. Kaiser Permanente has proposed a 12% increase in pay over four years for southern California, which SEIU United Healthcare Workers West opposed.

The City of Long Beach should stand with Kaiser healthcare workers fighting for higher wages as well as more equitable staffing conditions. This doesn't just impact healthcare workers as everyone has healthcare needs that are affected by short staffing. The city has a commitment to advocate for the rights of workers, therefore it is appropriate that the City Council adopts a resolution affirming our support for healthcare workers as they work towards raising wages and addressing staffing challenges.



This matter has been reviewed by Budget Analyst Joe R. Guerrero on September 29, 2023.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This recommendation requests the City Attorney to draft a resolution proclaiming the City of Long Beach's support for Kaiser Permanente healthcare workers. The requested action is anticipated to have a minimal impact on staff hours beyond the budgeted scope of duties and a minimal impact on existing City Council priorities.

STATEMENT OF URGENCY:

This item is being submitted through supplemental agenda due to the time sensitivity of this issue.



City of Long Beach Memorandum
Working Together to Serve

REQUEST TO ADD AGENDA ITEM

Date: September 29, 2023
To: Monique De La Garza, City Clerk
From: Councilwoman Cindy Allen, Second District
Subject: Request to Add Agenda Item to Council Agenda of October 3, 2023

Pursuant to Municipal Code Section 2.03.070 [B], the City Councilmembers signing below request that the attached agenda item (due in the City Clerk Department by Friday, 12:00 Noon) be placed on the City Council agenda under New Business via the supplemental agenda.

The agenda title/recommendation for this item reads as follows:

Recommendation to request the City Attorney to draft a resolution proclaiming the City of Long Beach's support for Kaiser Permanente healthcare workers.

Council District	Authorizing Councilmember	Signed by
2	Cindy Allen	
6	Suely Saro	
7	Roberto Uranga	