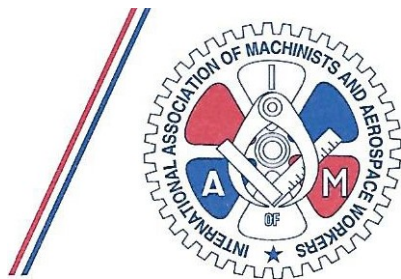


# International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers



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OFFICE OF THE GENERAL VICE PRESIDENT

August 4, 2020

Dear Honorable Mayor and City Council,

I am writing today about a very complex and serious issue. We are in a time that is going to require the best of us all. There is no doubt that our actions and decisions now will impact our community for generations to come. How we decide to weather this storm will inform and guide how our community grows when we recover. And you all are the gatekeepers, our guiding hands through this process: a duty I do not envy. But I am not without duty myself. Our Union, the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers is not without duty.

Our duty is to support you in these decisions, to share as much insight and knowledge from our perspective as we can, and in turn, we hope that our perspective will be given appropriate weight because we are the very workers who are delivering the essential services the community is going to need in the coming years. We have always kept the community at the center of our advocacy, and this is no different. We do understand that all of our backs are against the wall on this one. But the community must come first. The City of Long Beach must use all its strength to buoy and protect this wonderfully rich and diverse community. And that begins internally.

First, I must discuss what I consider to be an inexcusable oversight. We have been in negotiations with the city since January of this year. In recent months we have been told that furloughs were coming and that the furlough program was an effort to keep from laying members off. Rumors have been circulating about the furloughs and our members who, while worried, largely accept those furloughs because we understand that this is going to be an unprecedented economic downturn and we want to preserve jobs and help make the city more resilient. We were given no official notice from Human Resources or the City Manager's Office before yesterday's announcement was made. We had to learn from our membership that this was coming. Not to mention that this is a subject of bargaining right now. We've signed no deal and you gave our members specifics that aren't finalized. How are we supposed to help calm them down and reaffirm them when there is no agreement yet?

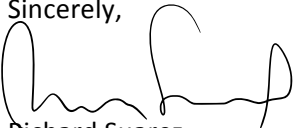
The second item that must be discussed, again, is furlough parity. Initially it seemed to have been the City Manager's view that since we happen to be in open contract negotiations with them right now, that we take the brunt of the furloughs. I understand that with yesterday's announcement that the other bargaining units are probably now subject to the same or similar furloughs as we are, which is fair, but I think I speak for all of us when we ask what about unrepresented workers like directors and management? We already know that you, the City Council, have discussed pay cuts for yourselves. And we thank you for your leadership. You all have proven that you want to lead from the front and be a part of the solution. Have any of these unrepresented managers or directors stepped forward and offered like you have? Remember, we represent a lot of the lowest paid employees in the city. 208 hours in a year to them has a huge impact on their life. Now compare that to the impact 208 hours will have on someone receiving a Director's salary. How can we expect these workers to sacrifice their stability for the city when a lot of leadership has not been made to give the same, or better yet, an equitable sacrifice? Not only is it not feasible to do this solely on the backs of your employees, but it is wrong to try.

A lot of our members are part time, non career who have no property rights. I mean we have been fighting to get them even bereavement leave, but the city won't budge. And in recent years, the city has been increasingly transferring full-time, classified work to part-time, non-career positions. It mirrors the adjunct teacher v. professor issue going on in our university systems. In the universities, it is bad for the teachers and the students. In the city, it is bad for the employees and the community. We have to stem this tide now. I see parts of this budget proposal as an acceleration of this trend, possibly an irreversible one. Paired with the continued proposals to outsource city work to contractors who are not tied to the work the way our membership is. Our communities cannot afford that. They need more services, higher quality services, not fewer and lower quality services.

Yesterday's budget proposal press conference was a tale of two cities. One city ran by the City Manager's Office, not as the steward of the people's voice, but as the leader. The other where the people's voice lead. We choose the voice of the people. Our elected officials are the extension of us. They represent us in our democracy. It seems that the City Manager's Office prefers to lead, and we understand that there is no malice and that as career professionals, they have important insight and guidance to offer. In fact, we have a deep respect for the work they are doing right now, that they honestly feel is in the best interest of the city. However, they do not set the priorities. Those are set by the community and communicated by our elected officials: by you.

We stand ready to do our duty, to help keep this city afloat and to build it back better than before. Our members stand ready to fight for their community and continue to deliver them the services they are going to need. We are willing to do everything that our leaders, elected and otherwise, are also willing to do. This budget will lay the foundation of our community for generations to come. We cannot over state its importance. You have the support in the community to do the right thing, to move this city in the right direction. Please take the bold steps because it is now or never.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Suarez', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Richard Suarez

Grand Lodge Representative

International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers

**From:** Ashley Locke [mailto:ashleylocke1206@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 1, 2020 7:55 PM  
**To:** CityClerk <CityClerk@longbeach.gov>  
**Subject:** Mayor's Press Conference

**-EXTERNAL-**

Hi there!

My name is Ashley Locke and I'm a resident of Long Beach, California. I'm writing, because I would like my comment to go on the record for the Mayor's press conference this Monday, August 3.

In regards to the FY 2021 budget, I demand the mayor and the council put the interests of black lives into the budget. Black people needed to be included in a resolution for their framework. I know they have been written out of the budget entirely, which has completely erased their needs. That is not okay. Something needs to be done about that.

Thank you for your time!

All the best,  
Ashley

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Ashley Locke  
Pronouns: She/her

**From:** Jim [mailto:jim@4thstreetvine.com]

**Sent:** Monday, August 3, 2020 11:49 AM

**To:** Council District 1 <District1@longbeach.gov>; Council District 2 <District2@longbeach.gov>; Council District 3 <District3@longbeach.gov>; Council District 4 <District4@longbeach.gov>; Council District 5 <District5@longbeach.gov>; Council District 6 <District6@longbeach.gov>; Council District 7 <District7@longbeach.gov>; Council District 8 <District8@longbeach.gov>; Council District 9 <District9@longbeach.gov>; Mayor <Mayor@longbeach.gov>; City Manager <CityManager@longbeach.gov>; CityClerk <CityClerk@longbeach.gov>

**Cc:** Brett Gallo <brett@thestachebar.com>; Aaron Henderson <aaron@steadybrewing.com>; robert@rocksteadyinc.com; alex@alex sbar.com; darthvatoswife@alex sbar.com; Goodbarlb@gmail.com; Thehawklbc@gmail.com; derf.baddeleys@gmail.com; kevin.norton@outlook.com; alex@lbjerkyco.com

**Subject:** Council Agenda Item: Budget proposal to consider fee suspension for restaurants

**-EXTERNAL-**

Attention Long Beach City Council,

**SUBJECT:** Tuesday, August 4th 2020 Council Agenda Item: Budget proposal to consider fee suspension for restaurants

As the co-owner of one restaurant (The Bamboo Club) and one bar (Bar Ya Sabes) in the 4th District as well as one bar/venue (4th Street Vine) in the 2nd District, I want to ask that council please consider the serious financial hardship that bar owners are going through due to the Covid crisis. I am asking that bars and entertainment venues (in addition to restaurants) be added to the agenda item that is being proposed tomorrow evening. As we have entered the fifth month of closure many of us are facing extremely dire financial realities. In addition to the lack of income we are all experiencing, we are also facing the fact that once we are allowed to reopen, we will be operating with severely reduced capacities in order to maintain responsible and mandated social distancing protocols. To further compound the financial strain we are already suffering, we will be faced with trying to pay back rent, vendor bills, lease payments, etc... all of which have been compounding during these months of closure.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Jim Ritson and Sophia Sandoval