



**City of Long Beach**  
**Working Together to Serve**

**NB-22**

Memorandum

**Office of Councilmember Steven Neal**  
**Councilmember, 9<sup>th</sup> District**

**Date:** July 23, 2013

**To:** Honorable Mayor Bob Foster and Members of the City Council

**From:** Councilmember Steven Neal, Ninth District *SN*  
Councilmember Patrick O'Donnell, Fourth District *(PO)*  
Councilmember Al Austin, Eighth District *al*

**Subject:** "Workplace Safety" Resolution

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**Recommendation:** Request City Attorney to draft a resolution in support of negotiations between SEIU Healthcare Workers West and Telecare La Casa Mental Health and Rehabilitation Center, in an effort to seek safety improvement to the workplace for the caregivers, patients, and the surrounding community.

**Background:** In the fall of 2012, caregivers at Telecare La Casa Mental Health and Rehabilitation Center voted to form a union with SEIU United Healthcare Workers West to address safety and workplace issues. Members of SEIU United Healthcare Workers West at La Casa have been seeking improvements to safety and general workplace issues through contract negotiations with hospital management at Telecare La Casa Mental Health and Rehabilitation Center for more than a year with no resolution. The Telecare Corporation has received more than \$113 million from Los Angeles county taxpayers over the last four years.

There are alarming reports of safety and care incidents at Telecare La Casa Mental Health and Rehabilitation Center including:

- More than 175 assaults between patients last year;
- Almost 40 patient on staff assaults last year;
- More than 30 patient escapes since 2010, including an escape in May 2013 that resulted in the patient's death.

Caregivers at Telecare La Casa have reported the above incidents to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors in June of 2013.

This resolution will demonstrate the importance of the safety of all caregivers, patients, or residents in the city of Long Beach.

**Fiscal Impact:** There is no fiscal impact.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE LONG BEACH CITY COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF THE SEIU UNITED HEALTHCARE WORKERS WEST CAREGIVERS CALL FOR SAFETY AND CARE AT TELECARE LA CASA**

WHEREAS, in the fall of 2012, caregivers at Telecare La Casa Mental Health and Rehabilitation Center voted to form a union with SEIU United Healthcare Workers West to address safety and workplace issues; and

WHEREAS, members of SEIU United Healthcare Workers West at La Casa have been seeking improvements to safety and general workplace issues through contract negotiations with hospital management at Telecare La Casa Mental Health and Rehabilitation Center for more than a year with no resolution; and

WHEREAS, the Telecare Corporation has received more than \$113 million from Los Angeles county taxpayers over the last four years; and

WHEREAS, there are alarming reports of safety and care incidents at Telecare La Casa Mental Health and Rehabilitation Center; and

WHEREAS, The City of Long Beach supports the members of SEIU United Healthcare Workers West at Telecare La Casa Mental Health and Rehabilitation Center in their negotiations for a contract that includes safety and care improvements; and

WHEREAS, The City of Long Beach will continue to work with caregivers to facilitate a speedy resolution to contract negotiations with hospital management at Telecare La Casa Mental Health and Rehabilitation; and

WHEREAS, The City of Long Beach calls on the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to conduct a full audit of all facilities owned by the Telecare Corporation in Los Angeles County; and

WHEREAS, The City of Long Beach will review the authority to address safety concerns related to the operation of the La Casa Mental Health and Rehabilitation facility, and related operations including the transportation of patients by Telecare, through city ordinance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Long Beach supports that no employee should have to risk being assaulted while on the job and supports a safe work environment for patients, caregivers, and the Long Beach community.



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*Working Together to Serve*

## REQUEST TO ADD AGENDA ITEM

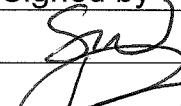

**Date:** July 23, 2013  
**To:** Larry Herrera, City Clerk  
**From:** Councilmember Steven Neal, Ninth District  
**Subject:** Request to Add Agenda Item to Council Agenda of **July 23, 2013.**

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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:

Workplace Safety Resolution

Council District	Authorizing Councilmember	Signed by
9	Steven Neal	
4	Patrick O'Donnell	
8	Al Austin	