

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE 1199SEIU HEALTHCARE WORKERS AT COLUMBIA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL IN THEIR EFFORT TO MITIGATE THE CURRENT STAFFING CRISIS AND IMPROVE QUALITY CARE FOR THE BENEFIT OF OUR ENTIRE COMMUNITY

Whereas, for more than two years the healthcare workers at Columbia Memorial Hospital (CMH) have been challenged by not only the worst pandemic in recent history, but also extreme short-staffing;

Whereas, they sacrifice their health and many times risk their lives for one reason: their commitment to providing the best possible quality care to our Columbia Memorial community;

Whereas, it is a well-documented fact that short-staffing at both inpatient and outpatient healthcare facilities has a negative impact on the ability to deliver quality care;

Whereas, the 1199SEIU CMH healthcare workers continue to endure physical and emotional exhaustion caused by increased caseloads and short-staffing;

Whereas, a vicious cycle is created when that physical and emotional exhaustion caused by short-staffing becomes unbearable; healthcare workers are forced to leave the jobs they love, and the short-staffing situation is further aggravated;

Whereas, below-market wages and unaffordable health insurance are significant obstacles in recruiting and retaining qualified healthcare workers;

Whereas, CMH management has been relying on out-of-town “traveling” or “agency” caregivers with no commitment to our community to staff the hospital;

Whereas, 1199SEIU members have requested several meetings with CMH management to address the staffing problem, but management seems to be ignoring the urgency and depth of the problem;

Whereas, CMH management's proposal to address the staffing crisis is a slap in the face to the patient care assistants who provide bedside care;

Whereas, 1199 members have put forth a fair proposal that would begin to address the CMH staffing crisis, but have not received a response from management for weeks now;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Hudson supports the 1199SEIU healthcare workers at Columbia Memorial Hospital in their effort to improve staffing by working with management to raise wages for all bedside caregivers and find ways to minimize the use of "traveling" or "agency" workers.

Introduced _____
Seconded _____

Approved _____
By _____
Mayor