

Pepper-Sprayed At Racist Clinic



On Tuesday, Nov. 7th 2006 after having to yet again argue just to receive his life-saving medication from a pharmacy holding it hostage, Raul "Curly" Estremera (a long time community activist) was attacked for asserting his human rights – for decent health care. While leaving Valley Health Center in Eastside San Jose, the security guard at the clinic blindsided Curly, pepper-spraying him from behind as he was walking out of the clinic. Curly without knowing who was attacking him, defended himself as best he could, eventually leaving the clinic to an awaiting vehicle for his safety, only to then be approached by several SJPD vehicles, prepared to arrest him for acting in his own safety interests. Curly tried to approach the officers to complain that someone had pepper-sprayed him, he then was informed that the person who had assaulted him was an off-duty sheriff, and was charging him with **ASSAULT ON A POLICE OFFICER WITH A "DEADLY WEAPON"** (A trash can that he flung in the direction of his attacker – After being blinded by the continuous use of pepper spray in a desperate attempt to remain conscious). Only to then be handed over to the SJPD, who proceeded to harass and brutalize him resulting in Curly being rushed to the hospital because of the injuries suffered during transportation while handcuffed in custody, and still be denied food, his medication and further medical attention.

Valley Health Center (formerly known as Chaboya Medical Clinic) used to be run in harmony with the Eastside

San Jose community with a majority of workers, that represented, were accountable to and part of the community that they were serving. Now with new corporate-styled owners the service has diminished: even though an 'automated system' established for the patients convenience supposedly exists, patients are made to wait 2-4 hours for their medication due to the fact that the current employees do not want to open other available windows including the Handicap window, patients now wait weeks to get appointments at which they are forced to wait even more hours to actually have, long after their scheduled time or after hours in Urgent Care receiving subpart medical attention. Now the relationship between community and the clinic has deteriorated to the point that it is a constant conflict for patients just to get the basic medication or medical attention they need to save their very lives. Because the "new clinic" does not represent the community, the community has not complained accept amongst themselves. And as if this were not enough, now they are physically attacking members of our community, us the very people they are supposed to be serving... **ENOUGH IS ENOUGH, WE SAY NO MORE!**

COME AND JOIN THE COMMUNITY IN SAYING "NO MORE!" BY DEMANDING:

- 1) THAT MORE SPANISH SPEAKING EMPLOYEES AND TRANSLATORS ARE HIRED**
- 2) THAT THE CLINIC SERVICES REFLECT THE DEMOGRAPHICS OF THE COMMUNITY**
- 3) AN END TO THE PERVERSIVE RACIST ATTITUDES, BEHAVIORS, POLICIES, AND PRACTICES OF DEHUMANIZATION AGAINST PATIENTS AND THE EASTSIDE COMMUNITY BY THE VALLEY MEDICAL CLINIC – WE ARE HUMAN BEINGS, NOT CATTLE!**
- 4) THAT THE AUTOMATED TELEFONIC PERScription REFILL SYSTEM AND PHARMACY PROCEDURES BE REVAMPED SO THAT THEY SERVE THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY, NOT THE LAZINE SS AND INTERESTS OF THE HOSPITAL AND ITS EMPLOYEES!**
- 5) DROP THE CHARGE ON RAUL " CURLY" ESTREMERA AND REMOVE ALL PEPPER SPRAY FROM ALL MEDICAL CLINICS**

PICKET AT THE VALLEY HEALTH CENTER

***4:30 pm, November 27, 2006
(500 Tully Rd., San Jose)***

For more information:

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