

UNITEHERE!



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Media Advisory

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San Francisco Hotel Workers March for a Fair Contract *Hotel workers take to the streets for affordable healthcare and job security*

WHAT:

Hotel workers' rally and march for new city-wide hotel contracts.

WHO:

Over 1,000 hotel workers and community supporters.

WHEN & WHERE:

Friday, August 14, 2009

Hotel Workers Rising Rally & March: 4:00pm on Market Street, between 3rd and 4th Street (plaza near Four Seasons Hotel). March will proceed around Union Square hotels and will conclude in Union Square.

Press Availability: 4:00 pm, between 3rd and 4th Street (plaza near Four Seasons Hotel), Press Table

WHY:

Hotel contracts affecting 9,000 San Francisco hotel workers expire on Aug. 14, 2009. After years of record profitability, which generated a total of \$161.1 billion in profit for the national hotel industry from 2002 to 2008, employers are using a 6-month downturn as an excuse to cut jobs and increase the workload for those who remain. In addition there have been rumblings that employers will undercut the citywide standard for healthcare coverage. Now, area hotel workers are coming together to safeguard the low-cost, high quality health care that has become the hallmark of San Francisco hotel union contracts, while working to ensure that staffing levels return when the economy rebounds.

On Aug. 14, hotel workers will march in the streets, launching a city-wide campaign for a fair contract that maintains strong healthcare coverage and job security.

"The most important thing to me in this contract and always is health care," says Aurolyn Rush, a 13-year employee of the Grand Hyatt. "I was diagnosed with cancer twice and if it wasn't for the affordable health care coverage that I receive in our union contracts, I wouldn't have made it this far. Times are tough, but this is a life or death issue for us."

UNITE HERE! Local 2 is the union of hotel and food service workers in San Francisco and San Mateo Counties. It represents about 12,000 workers in the hospitality industry, For more information visit www.unitehere2.org or contact Riddhi Mehta at 707-695-2364 or rmehta@unitehere2.org.