

October 9, 2018
M18-017

To: SPEEA Council

From: Joel Funfar SPEEA President, Jimmie Mathis SPEEA Treasurer, Nikolas Geiselman (E-25), Terry Tomt (A-30), Tony Hickerson (T-10), Mark Friesen (R-50), Ugur Koku (P-3), Ernest White (B-10)

Subject: **New Business – Support of Marriott Hotel Workers strikes.**

Background

SPEEA members support other union members who have been forced to go on strike to achieve decent contracts and respect from the companies that employ them.

UNITE HERE union representing hotel workers has a nationwide issue with the Marriot Hotel chain and its management.

The workers are demanding: protection against sexual harassment, issued panic buttons to summon hotel security, significant wage increases bringing wages to above the poverty line, full time employment instead of multiple jobs. Marriott has not been responding to union offers.

As of Monday, more than 7,700 Marriott hotel workers are on strike as housekeepers, desk attendants and other non-management employees struck in Boston, San Francisco, San Jose, Oakland, Detroit, San Diego and Hawaii.

UNITE HERE Local 8 in Seattle approved by over 98% to authorize a strike

Throughout this campaign, UNITE HERE's message to Marriott has been simple: One Job Should Be Enough. Marriott is the largest and the richest hotel employer, and they can do better. There is no reason why Marriott employees across the country should be going to work in pain, losing sleep over reduced hours, or struggling to pay rent, while Marriott buys back stock and funnels profits to its shareholders.

Links: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/marriott-hotel-strike-leads-to-mass-employee-walkouts/>

Some ways SPEEA members can support the UNITE HERE union workers:

PLEDGE: As hotel customers, your voice is powerful. Visit www.marriotttravelalert.org to pledge as an individual or organization to support Marriott hotel workers by not eating, sleeping, or meeting at any Marriott in the event of a boycott and/or strike.

For Seattle area support workers at The Westin hotel, whose contract ended May 31st.

Also, so that workers experiencing extreme hardship receive the emergency assistance they need, individuals can donate to the Puget Sound Labor Agency **hardship fund** set up for Westin strikers. You can donate online at www.bit.ly/westinhardship.

SPEEA executive board has budgeted funds they can approve to support this strike as needed.

Motion

It is moved **THE SPEEA COUNCIL SUPPORTS THE UNITE HERE UNION WORKERS AROUND THE COUNTRY ON STRIKE. IT IS FURTHER MOVED TO ADVERTISE TO OUR MEMBERS, WAYS THEY CAN SUPPORT THESE WORKERS FOR A FAIR CONTRACT.**