

December 15, 2020

The Honorable Governor Gavin Newsom
State of California
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor,

The undersigned Chambers of Commerce and Business Trade organizations are writing you to express our urgent concern with the announced planned strike of the SEIU 121 RN union at Riverside Community Hospital from December 24, 2020 through January 3, 2021. We believe you have the authority to halt this action under the California Emergency Services Act, and you share the moral obligation to speak out against it on behalf of the communities of which you have asked so much sacrifice since March of this year.

Under the current Regional Stay at Home Order, and in the interest of public health, chambers of commerce and communities across Southern California have a vested interest in protecting what precious little ICU capacity remains under the unprecedented surge of COVID-19 positive cases across the State. As you stated when issuing your Regional Stay at Home Order on December 3, 2020, “we are at a tipping point in our fight against the virus and we need to take decisive action now to prevent California’s hospital system from being overwhelmed”. Surely Governor this applies to our current situation. Nothing could be more debilitating to our regions capacity to fight this virus than a mass exodus of qualified healthcare personnel.

To be clear, we are not challenging or questioning the rights of these workers to collectively bargain, nor would we ask for your intervention were we not in extraordinary circumstances. Unions and management often disagree, and through the years have established practices and negotiating methods to achieve such means as they see right.

But now is not the time for a strike.

Over the course of this year you have asked, and in many cases ordered, small businesses and the community at large to bare a tremendous burden in the fight against COVID-19. We are asking that you use that same consistent voice, and power of your office, to speak out against and if required block, this unconscionable action on the part of SEIU 121 RN Labor Union that could endanger the lives of many in our region.

We are calling on you to please take the following actions:

1. State publicly that this strike is not in the public health interests of California and ask the union representing RNs at Riverside Community Hospital to call off their planned strike until such time as the COVID-19 state of emergency is lifted by your office.
2. Utilize the powers vested in you by the California Emergency Services Act to enjoin any such actions that would create a planned work stoppage on the part of the Registered Nurses at Riverside

Community Hospital, or any hospital inside of the State of California for so long as the State remains in a state of emergency under your orders.

We thank you for your continued leadership and look forward to your quick and decisive action to prevent this pending public health emergency.

With regards,



Greater Coachella Valley Chamber of Commerce

Coalition Partners:

Riverside Chambers of Commerce
Greater Coachella Valley Chamber of Commerce
Corona Chamber of Commerce
Lake Elsinore Valley Chamber of Commerce
Murrieta/Wildomar Chamber of Commerce
Temecula Valley Chamber of Commerce
Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce
Greater San Fernando Valley Chamber of Commerce
Culver City Chamber of Commerce
Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce
Oceanside Chamber of Commerce
North Orange County Chamber
Calabasas Chamber of Commerce
Whittier Area Chamber of Commerce
Hesperia Chamber of Commerce
Victor Valley Chamber of Commerce
Sherman Oaks Chamber of Commerce
Santee Chamber of Commerce
Brawley Chamber of Commerce
Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce
Yorba Linda Chamber of Commerce
Palm Springs Chamber of Commerce
Palm Desert Area Chamber of Commerce
Desert Valley Builders Association
El Centro Chamber of Commerce
Desert Business Association