



Member, Board of Supervisors
District 6

City and County of San Francisco

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For Immediate Release

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*****PRESS RELEASE*****

**UCSF Directs Termination of Chinese Workers:
Says Long-time Workers Not Hireable Because of Language**

San Francisco, CA - San Francisco Supervisors Jane Kim and London Breed, Reverend Norman Fong, SF Labor Council President Mike Casey, Chinese Progressive Association, Jobs with Justice, and UCSF workers united today in support of the UC San Francisco (UCSF) hospital workers who were fired after organizing for decent wages.

A public institution whose mission is "to advance human health," UCSF was found to be in violation of fair labor practices by the California Public Employment Relations Board. After UCSF cut custodial workers' wages from \$15-18 per hour to \$10.74 per hour, workers began to organize for better working conditions and wages. Custodian Irene Su described how she has been struggling to survive, "Two years ago, I stood up with my co-workers when our employer cut our wages nearly in half. In retaliation, UCSF had me fired. As the head of my household, I don't know what to do now. My unemployment has run out." In fact, despite working at a premier medical institution, many of these workers were forced to rely on public health clinics and Medicaid for medical care even while employed due to their low wages.

UCSF's response to the unfair labor practice stated that one of the factors in not hiring these workers was because of language capacity. This was never raised as an issue when these workers were employed by a third party, IMPEC, and provided custodial services to UCSF in years prior. "These are mostly Chinese immigrants who have worked at their jobs for years, and language only became an issue after they began demanding decent wages. This is unacceptable and out of line with our values," said Supervisor Jane Kim.

"No one should be denied employment simply because of the language that they speak," said Board President London Breed. "I urge UCSF to rehire these workers as full-time employees with the proper wage and benefits they deserve."

Today, the Board of Supervisors will be voting on a resolution urging Chancellor Dr. Sam Hawgood and Medical Center CEO Mark Laret to rectify serious breaches of workers' rights by returning these custodial workers to their original jobs. Agnes Castro of American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) stated, "This is the face of the sub-contracted worker. When they stood up to demand a better life for their families, UCSF threw them away. Their fight is my fight and I will do whatever it takes to make sure all UCSF workers are treated equally."