

UNITE HERE LOCAL 2 BOYCOTT SAN FRANCISCO CAMPAIGN AT ODDS WITH NEW ERA OF COLLABORATIVE PROSPERITY - THE SAN FRANCISCO GRAND HYATT \$1 MILLION BOYCOTT - BY PAT MURPHY

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By Pat Murphy

Founder

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David Nadelman had the baleful eye of a stood-up bridegroom this morning, waiting for the bride to show and music to play.

Indeed, as general manager of the San Francisco Grand Hyatt hotel, Nadelman has been waiting to hear *'I Do'* from Unite Here Local 2 for 18 months after several proposals.

*David Nadelman Grand Hyatt General Manager*

"We given Local 2 several dates for the union to choose as acceptable for contract negotiations to resume," Nadelman told the Sentinel at a 9:30 a.m. press conference today.

In turn, "the union has not sent dates and has not responded to our dates of its preference," continued Nadelman.

Riddhi Mehta-Neugebauer, Local 2 spokesperson stationed outside the press conference, confirmed such one-way communication.

"That's true," Mehta-Neugebauer told the Sentinel.

As to when Local 2 might pick a time and date to resume negotiations, "you'll have to ask" Local 2 leadership, Mehta-Neugebauer stated.

*Mike Casey Local 2 Leader*

Meanwhile, the union is launching a \$1 million campaign aimed at worldwide travellers boycotting San Francisco hotels and conventions; a Federal Court trial begins today against the union for allegedly diverting funds from the joint Child & Elder Care Fund without consulting Hyatt management and allocating those funds to the joint Legal Fund which is used to fight anti-immigrant hiring practices.

While much union focus is directed from its national headquarters, in San Francisco the union headlines the spectre of anti-immigrant sentiment at the San Francisco Grand Hyatt.

The charge is incredulous, according to an independent national organization which promotes immigrant hiring.

"That's not the Hyatt Hotel we know," said Susan Au Allen, chief executive officer of the Pan Asian American Chamber of Commerce.

"I'm surprise, shocked and saddened," continued Au Allen.

“For ten years we have worked with the Hyatt, year after year.

“We loved working with the Hyatt all these years because the way they have treated us and immigrants.

“Ninety percent of our members are immigrants. Thirty percent of San Francisco residents are Asian,” she concluded, noting local immigrant need for work and receptivity to local immigrant Hyatt employment.

Gary Fernandez, a foodservice leader, echoed Au Allen.

“The Hyatt I know and have worked with for many years is a true leader in every aspect of multi-cultural issues: diversity, inclusion and immigration,” Fernandez recalled, representing the Multicultural Foodservice and Hospitality Alliance, a non-profit group which promotes economic benefit of diversity and inclusion in the restaurant, foodservice and lodging industries.

“They are fully supportive of their employees many of whom are immigrants.

“All our experience with the Hyatt in the 15-year history of MFHA shows that they are one of the best in class in the lodging industry when it comes to diversity leadership.

“I have never seen or experienced anything from them other than a rock-solid commitment to supporting immigrants as employees in the community,” Fernandez recalled.

Nadelman suggested Local 2 be specific.

“I challenge Local 2 to be more specific in its anti-immigrant charge,” he urged.

In concern, he noted “The recession in San Francisco probably has hurt our associates more than most.”

And every convention lost to San Francisco equates to \$30 million not available to the local economy, pointed out Joe D’Allesandro, chief executive officer of the San Francisco Travel Association.

Nadelman also pointed to San Francisco’s nascent era of getting things done rather than getting each other.

GET ON THE PHONE AND HELP

“Mike Casey and Local 2 members should help by getting on the phone and inviting tourists and conventions to San Francisco,” Nadelman asserted. “If the boycott works, my associates don’t.”

Meet with us, he further asked.

“Get back to the bargaining table and seriously negotiated - do it here in San Francisco, not in Washington, not in Wikikki, not in Chicago.

“Become a faithful partner with the hospitality industry - make sales calls on all of our behalf, not a \$1 million boycott San Francisco campaign.”

A San Franciscan interested in jobs, prosperity and the new era of collaborative effectiveness noted self-destruction in the union boycott.

“One million dollars is a lot of money to drive people away,” Steve Falk noted rhetorically, who serves as president of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce.