



RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 282

EFFECTIVE June 15, 2025

WHEREAS, More than 700 frontline healthcare workers at Butler Hospital, represented by SEIU 1199NE, have been on strike since May 15, 2025, due to unresolved issues involving wages, staffing, and workplace safety; and

WHEREAS, These workers include nurses, mental health counselors, environmental services staff, food service workers, and other essential personnel who provide critical care and support in one of Rhode Island's primary psychiatric facilities; and

WHEREAS, Butler Hospital is operating with chronic staffing shortages caused in part by uncompetitive wages and unsafe working conditions, with some positions starting as low as \$15.30/hour and long-tenured employees earning less than \$26/hour despite decades of service; and

WHEREAS, The frequency of workplace violence at Butler has sharply increased in 2025, with frontline staff reporting serious injuries, including concussions and physical assaults, and management refusing to accept union proposals to improve safety oversight and response; and

WHEREAS, Instead of investing in its workforce, Care New England has chosen to spend millions of dollars on out-of-state temporary staff with limited familiarity with the needs of psychiatric patients, while attempting to illegally terminate health coverage for striking workers, some of whom are pregnant or managing injuries and chronic illnesses; and

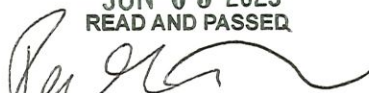
WHEREAS, The union's demands are clear and just, they are asking for wages that lift workers out of poverty, no cuts to healthcare, and no reductions in pension contributions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council stands in full solidarity with the striking workers of Butler Hospital and calls on Care New England and Butler Hospital leadership to immediately return to the bargaining table in good faith and negotiate a fair contract that protects worker dignity and public health; and


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That upon passage, a copy of this resolution shall be sent to the President and CEO of Care New England, the President of Butler Hospital, and the leadership of SEIU District 1199NE.

IN CITY COUNCIL

JUN 05 2025
READ AND PASSED



RACHEL M. MILLER, PRESIDENT



Tina L. Mastroianni
CLERK

Effective without the
Mayor's Signature



Tina L. Mastroianni
City Clerk