

Point-by-Point Response to the United Steel Workers on August 4th

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UNION STATEMENT: “They counter-proposed by giving it to the members and not directly with the union.”

RWJUH RESPONSE: As part of the hospital’s commitment to negotiating in good faith, at 1:30 pm on Wednesday August 2, the labor attorneys for RWJUH advanced the Hospital’s counter proposal to the Union, which is documented.

The Hospital took the extra step of forwarding this proposal to the union membership electronically on the morning of Thursday August 3. This is a legal communication. WHY DOESN’T THE UNION WANT ITS MEMBERS TO UNDERSTAND WHAT IS BEING OFFERED?

Frustratingly, the union still has not responded to that good faith offer on staffing.

UNION STATEMENT: “A strike is not good for anybody — it’s not good for the workers. It’s not good for patients, it’s not good for the hospital. Someone needs to listen to both sides. You just can’t listen to one side, there are two sides to the story.”

RWJUH RESPONSE: We agree! We agree that this strike is not the answer and with the statement that someone needs to listen to both sides – which is why we have repeatedly offered to enter in binding arbitration. The union has rejected both binding arbitration and an FMCS Board of Inquiry to resolve the dispute, in each case by an independent fact finder. This is highly unusual in labor relations. Typically, the union asks for these things and the hospital objects. **WE ARE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE FACTS WITH ANYONE AT ANYTIME.**

UNION STATEMENT: “Because of you, the hospital just requested to get back to the table. Our Bargaining Committee agreed and we’ve told the hospital that we’re ready to resume negotiations immediately for the fair contract our nurses deserve.”

While we continue to be in discussions with the union on establishing the next negotiating session, no such meeting has been confirmed as of Saturday morning. In fact, as of Saturday afternoon we still do not have a response to our August 2nd counter proposal.