

larco hospitality

March 5, 2024

Mayor Mike Hurley, City of Burnaby

Dear Mayor Hurley,

RE: Your February 22, 2024 letter to Larco Hospitality

I am the Vice President of Operations for Larco Hospitality. On its behalf, I acknowledge and thank you for your February 22, 2024 letter regarding the strike at Larco Hospitality's Sheraton Hotel in Richmond, in which you state that "the hotel and hospitality staff deserve a contract that fairly compensates them for their work and one that reflects the reality of the increased cost of living in Metro Vancouver in 2024".

We also offer these observations in response to your letter:

First of all, I assure you that Larco Hospitality agrees entirely with the above-quoted statement in your letter. As you may not know, in May 2023 the parties to the labour dispute jointly appointed an independent and experienced mediator to assist them in arriving at a resolution of the dispute. The parties met on several occasions with the mediator who became well-versed in the issues. Ultimately, the mediator made written recommendations to the parties for settlement of the new collective agreement. The mediator's recommendations were based on what she considered in all of the circumstances to be a fair and reasonable settlement. She also concluded in her report that further mediation would not lead to a resolution.

Despite the mediator's recommendations being more favourable to the Union than the terms Larco Hospitality had then proposed, Larco accepted the mediator's recommendations, but the Union did not and has not yet allowed its members to vote on the recommendations.

You should know as well that earlier in the dispute, Larco Hospitality proposed to the Union that the matter be put to an independent arbitrator for a final and binding decision, but the Union rejected that proposal as well.

Now that you are apprised of these facts, I am sure you will agree that Larco Hospitality has throughout this process acted very reasonably in this matter and has in fact been bargaining in good faith.

We request that you place this letter in your file that contains your February 22, 2024 letter to us regarding the strike. I trust that you will agree that it is important for the city to have all relevant information on this matter. We also request that Burnaby City Council urge UNITE HERE Local 40 to also bargain in good faith, as you communicated in your letter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

Tim Mashford
Vice President Operations
Larco Hospitality Inc.

