



CITY OF BOSTON

ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING HEALTH & SAFETY HAZARDS FACING BOSTON'S HOTEL WORKERS

- WHEREAS,** Protecting the health and safety of Boston's working people, as well as visitors to Boston, is of paramount concern to the Boston City Council; and
- WHEREAS,** The Wyndham Boston Beacon Hill (the "Wyndham") is located in convenient proximity to Massachusetts General Hospital ("MGH"), allowing many MGH patients to stay at the Wyndham before and after surgical procedures or while receiving outpatient treatment; and
- WHEREAS,** An April 2015 survey conducted by UNITE HERE Local 26 found that "almost all Wyndham housekeeping staff reported cleaning hotel rooms with bodily fluids or signs of illness" and encountering an assortment of medical waste in their workplace; and
- WHEREAS,** Wyndham management has repeatedly failed to provide its housekeeping staff with adequate safety equipment, such as biohazard suits and leak-proof bags, to perform this important yet dangerous work; and
- WHEREAS,** Such failures expose workers to grave and unnecessary workplace health hazards; and
- WHEREAS,** Due to repeated complaints, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration ("OSHA") has begun an investigation into the Wyndham; ***THEREFORE BE IT***
- ORDERED,** That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to examine working conditions at the Wyndham, discuss how best to protect Boston's hotel workers from potential health hazards, and determine whether sufficient safety protocols are in place to protect hospital patients who stay at Boston's hotels; and that representatives of the Boston Public Health Commission, OSHA, UNITE HERE Local 26, the Wyndham, and the Massachusetts Lodging Association, along with other interested parties, be invited to testify.

Filed on: June 1, 2015