THE COUNCIL
OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

May 22, 2023

Dr. Kenneth L. Davis
Chief Executive Officer
Mount Sinai Health System
1425 Madison Avenue, First Floor
New York, NY 10029

Dear Dr. Davis,

We are writing in support of the members of the Committee of Interns and Residents/SEIU (CIR) at Elmhurst Hospital, who on Monday, May 22nd began the first physician strike in the U.S. in over 30 years. We urge you to cease engaging in bad faith bargaining and immediately agree to their demand for pay equity and bring about an end to this strike.

These doctors are deeply dedicated to providing the highest quality of care to their patients but we cannot expect them to continue to be able to do so at the expense of their own well-being. We have heard from many of these doctors that they are struggling to meet their basic needs on their current salaries. Considering they are working often 80 hours a week, we find this unacceptable, especially given their importance to the operation of Elmhurst Hospital and the overall health and well-being of the community they serve.

As one of the world's Covid epicenters, Elmhurst saw the worst of the pandemic, and it was the frontline healthcare workers, including these doctors, that put their lives at risk to carry our communities through it. It is not enough to simply call them heroes; they must be adequately supported and compensated for their labor.

We view the union's demand for pay parity with Mount Sinai's other residency programs as not only reasonable but also a matter of racial and health equity. The Elmhurst residents reflect the diversity of the predominantly immigrant patient population they serve— they do not deserve less than other Mount Sinai employed residents who serve wealthier and whiter communities.

The health of our Queens community matters. We urge you to take action now. End this strike by coming to a fair agreement and ensure these doctors who care for us receive the fair and adequate compensation they deserve and are able to return to the patients and community that needs them.

Sincerely,

Council Member Shekar Krishnan
25th District

Council Member Justin Brannan
43rd District

Council Member Julie Won
26th District

Council Member Lynn Schulman
29th District

Council Member Nantasha Williams
27th District

Council Member Tiffany Cabán
22nd District

Council Member Julie Menin
5th District

Council Member Marjorie Velazquez
13th District

Council Member Jennifer Gutiérrez
34th District

Council Member Althea Stevens
16th District

Council Member Kristin Richardson Jordan
9th District

Council Member Linda Lee
23rd District

Council Member Sandy Nurse
37th District

Council Member Robert Holden
30th District

Council Member Sandra Ung
20th District

Council Member Chi Ossé
36th District

Council Member Farah Louis
45th District

Council Member Christopher Marte
1st District

Council Member Kevin Riley
12th District

Council Member Keith Powers
4th District

Council Member Mercedes Narcisse
46th District

Council Member Shahana Hanif
39th District

Council Member Rita C. Joseph
40th District

Council Member Amanda Farias
18th District

Council Member Crystal Hudson
35th District

Council Member Carmen De La Rosa
10th District

Council Member Pierena Sanchez
14th District

Council Member Alexa Avilés
38th District

Council Member Shaun Abreu
7th District

Council Member Gale A. Brewer
6th District

Council Member Eric Dinowitz
11th District

Council Member Carlina Rivera
2nd District

Council Member Lincoln Restler
33rd District

Council Member Charles Barron
42nd District