

February 7, 2024

Michael Moskowitz
Chief Executive Officer
Ensemble Investments
444 W. Ocean Blvd. Ste. 650
Long Beach, CA 90802

Kambiz Babaoff
Chairman
Ensemble Investments
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Mr. Moskowitz and Mr. Babaoff,

As an elected official, I write with grave concern about the disturbing pattern of violence against workers peacefully exercising their right to protest for better wages and benefits at Ensemble Investments' Hotel Maya in Long Beach. In addition, I wish to express my disappointment over the continued labor dispute at Ensemble Investments' Hyatt Place Pasadena.

Most recently, according to witness reports provided by UNITE HERE Local 11, on December 13, 2023, a housekeeper was participating in a peaceful picket line at the Maya Hotel with a sign and a megaphone when a man since identified by the press as Frank Zarabi approached her. According to these allegations, Zarabi grabbed and tried to yank the megaphone out of the housekeeper's right hand while yelling at her. According to accounts, after he failed to yank the megaphone away, he allegedly grabbed the housekeeper's right hand and continued to yell at her. She escaped only after another person came to her aid. The incident left the housekeeper with an injury on her right hand and caused her severe emotional distress.

It is noted that Zarabi's firm, Envision Hotel Partners, lists the Hotel Maya, Hyatt Place Pasadena, Courtyard Marriott Philadelphia South at the Navy Yard, Residence Inn Long Beach, Bernardus Lodge, Ithaca Marriott, Doubletree Carson, and Dream Inn as investments.¹ Ensemble also lists these same properties as part of its portfolio.²

This incident followed another disturbing instance of violence against protesting Hotel Maya workers on August 5, 2023. In that incident, Maya hotel security and guests attempted to use a chain link fence to forcibly relocate a group of striking workers while they peacefully picketed on a sidewalk, while a guest came around the fence and punched a worker in the head. The

¹ See <https://www.envisionhp.com> (under "Investments" tab).

² See <https://ensemble.net/portfolio>

worker experienced injuries and medical expenses as a result. The attack was captured on [video](#), which has been circulated widely and reported in the press.³

The events that have transpired at the Hotel Maya are alarming and deeply troubling. In addition, the labor dispute at Ensemble Investments' Hyatt Place Pasadena, where workers went on strike last month, continues. There is equal concern about the failure to resolve this labor dispute as well, which resulted in a recent walkout and numerous actions, including over the New Year's Holiday, which is an important holiday for the City of Pasadena.

At the same time, there has been positive resolution of labor disputes at thirty hotels in the region, including numerous properties operated by Marriott and Hilton. I question why Ensemble has been unable or unwilling to address the workers' concerns and resolve the disputes at its properties in Long Beach and Pasadena and I strongly urge you to do so as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Rex Richardson

Mayor of Long Beach

CC:

City of Long Beach City Manager Tom Modica
City of Pasadena City Manager Miguel Márquez
Long Beach Board of Harbor Commissioners
Port of Long Beach CEO Mario Cordero

³ See, e.g., Brandon Richardson, "A union protest at a Hotel Maya wedding turned violent. Who's to blame?," Long Beach Business Journal, August 22, 2023, <https://lbbusinessjournal.com/business/hotel-maya-unite-here-wedding-protest-violent>