

LAX Alert

Improving Safety, Security and Service Standards at Los Angeles International Airport

Two Paths:

Cooperation and Confrontation for Passenger Service Workers at LAX

Passenger Service workers at LAX have been working with SEIU and with responsible contractors and airlines to improve standards for workers and passengers alike at LAX. This includes improved training, reduced turnover and better wages and benefits. Events in recent weeks have illustrated two very different paths that contractors can take in responding to these efforts.

2 major passenger service contractors – G2 and AirServ – have chosen to work cooperatively with their workers and the Union to begin to raise standards and to resolve problems. In doing so, these companies have helped to create a non-disruptive, productive work environment for workers, passengers, airlines and the airport.

Aero Port Services, on the other hand, has responded to workers' attempts to form a Union by hiring a union-busting firm, engaging in threats and intimidation, and holding multiple mandatory "captive audience" meetings where workers were coerced by union busters. The company's actions have led to multiple demonstrations, worker testimony before the LAWA commission and other problems.

Aero Port Services Uses Public Facilities to Hold Union Busting Meetings

Airport service workers have reported that their employer Aero Port Services recently required workers to attend a meeting to listen to anti-union consultants.

The meeting was held in conference rooms in Bradley Terminal. Holding this meeting in a public facility may have been a violation of AB 1889, passed in 2000, which prohibits recipients of state funds from seeking to deter union organizing. LAX has benefited from state funds through bond issuances for construction and modernization.

LAWA should ensure that public facilities are not used to interfere with employees' rights to freely choose whether or not to join a Union.

APS "Union Busters" Reportedly Given Security Badges by LAWA

Aero Port Services has reportedly requested and been granted airport security badges for paid union busters. The Airport and the City clearly have an interest in limiting the number of people with access to secure areas. *Shouldn't security badges be reserved for employees with a legitimate function at LAX?*

All employees at Los Angeles International Airport must undergo background checks, including fingerprinting. After completing these checks, they receive security badges, allowing them access to secure areas of the airport. These checks are an important step in ensuring airport security. APS workers are organizing to raise standards in their industry, to reduce turnover, increase training and win improved wages and benefits. APS has responded by forcing workers to attend meetings with paid union busters. *Why permit access for people whose only function is to threaten and intimidate workers who are attempting to form a Union?*

APS Workers Forced to File Charges with Federal Government to Protect Rights

APS workers at LAX and SEIU have filed 6 Unfair Labor Practice charges with the National Labor Relations Board, in response to a pattern of threats and intimidation by the company. APS workers have filed charges over extended one-on-one interrogations, captive-audience meetings, discipline for discussing unionization at the airport, and an attempt to make an activist quit by transferring him to graveyard shift.

Airlines and the Airport should ask whether they want their money going to improved training and wages and benefits, or to paid union busters who appear intent on precipitating an extended labor crisis at LAX.



If you have questions, or would like to subscribe to LAX Alert, please email lea@seiulocal1877.org, or call (213)673-2210