

Dear SEIU International President Mary Kay Henry:

I am writing you to request that you assume original jurisdiction regarding internal union charges filed against SEIU Local 221 President Eric Banks. The Executive Board of SEIU 221 cannot act as the trial body, nor can it appoint a trial body, with impartiality and without conflict of interest, because the charged party is not only a member of the Board, but also is President of the Local Union. No hearing procedure conducted by the Local Executive Board or its appointees can completely protect the interests of the members of the Local. [*SEIU Constitution and Bylaws, Article XVII, Section 2(f)*]

The charges involve gross conduct which has harmed the economic interests and the union rights of thousands of members of Local 221.

I also ask that you suspend President Banks pending the outcome of the trial process. Members of the Local Union employed by County of San Diego make up about 80% of the Local's total membership. The great majority of those County members are entering contract renewal negotiations with the County this month, for contracts which expire in June 2011. For President Banks to continue to be functioning in his office during this critical time may seriously jeopardize the interests of the Local Union and the International Union. [*SEIU Constitution and Bylaws, Article XVII, Section 2(e)*]

Please find enclosed copies of the charges filed, along with a copy of the offensive ballot. Also enclosed is a copy of the February 26, 2011 ratification ballot results.

Since Local 221 was chartered in 2007, we have lost 4 entire bargaining units and many individual members. Many members attribute these defections to incompetent and corrupt union leadership. The Local Union is now having serious financial difficulties and this will only worsen if more members leave the union.

I hope you accept original jurisdiction and act rapidly to restore competent and ethical governance to this Local Union.

For a Strong Union and Strong Contracts,



Monty Kroopkin

March 9, 2011

858-373-7018