

RESOLUTION OF THE MAPLEWOOD TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE IN SUPPORT OF ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL (RWJUH) NURSES ON STRIKE FOR ADEQUATE, SAFE, AND ENFORCEABLE STAFFING LEVELS

TOWNSHIP OF MAPLEWOOD

Resolution Number 314-23

WHEREAS, over 1700 nurses from Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital (RWJUH) went on strike on August 4, 2023, after their negotiations for a new contract failed; and

WHEREAS, bargaining sessions by the parties since then have failed to secure adequate, safe, and enforceable staffing levels; and

WHEREAS, while the nurses on strike have lost access to their health benefits and wages, they remain focused on the establishment of safe and appropriate nurse-to-patient ratios; and

WHEREAS COVID-19 produced a labor shortage in nursing and other health professionals due to burnout and exhaustion, a shortage that remains; and

WHEREAS, maintaining safe nurse-to-patient ratios undeniably enhances patient outcomes and it's crucial that our hospitals and other healthcare settings prioritize patient safety and adequate care; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Maplewood and the Maplewood Township Committee honor nurses everywhere, respect them, support their safety, and have heavily invested in community health & wellness.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Mayor Dean Dafis and the Maplewood Township Committee call on RWJUH leadership, RWJBarnabas Health President and CEO, Mark Manigan (who lives in Maplewood) and the union representing the nurses (USW 4-200) to continue bargaining in good faith toward the establishment of adequate, safe, and enforceable staffing levels in the best interest of patient care.

WE FURTHER call on New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy to support the nurses in their reasonable demand for safe staffing levels toward a resolution of this hiatus and the establishment of fair and safe working conditions for nurses and healthcare providers at RWJUH and at hospitals across NJ.

A copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the Office of the Governor of New Jersey, Phil Murphy, USW 4-200 union leadership, the President of RWJUH, and to RWJBarnabas Health President and CEO, Mark Manigan.

I, Elizabeth J. Fritzen, Township Clerk of the Township of Maplewood, in the County of Essex and State of New Jersey, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Maplewood, County of Essex, State of New Jersey, at a regular meeting of said Committee held on October 3, 2023.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the Township of Maplewood in the County of Essex and State of New Jersey, on this 3rd day of October, 2023.

ELIZABETH J. FRITZEN, R.M.C., C.M.C.
Township Clerk