

UNION AT HOSPITAL FILES LABOR COMPLAINT

Unionized workers at **Riverside Community Hospital** have filed a complaint with the National Labor Relations Board accusing hospital management of harassing workers and conducting unlawful surveillance of union gatherings, the union said Wednesday.

The **Service Employees International Union** filed a complaint Monday on behalf of workers who met with two Riverside City Council members in separate gatherings at the hospital on May 18 and June 9. The union said the meetings were held to discuss short staffing at the hospital. The union's contract with **Riverside Community Hospital** expires June 30.

In a news release, the union said the hospital increased security at both meetings, that managers monitored who entered and left one meeting in May and took notes at the June meeting. Union officials said the hospital's actions violate federal prohibitions against intimidation and coercion by management during union activities.

Hospital spokeswoman Tracy Dallarda said the union's allegations are untrue. She said the union tried to meet in the hospital cafeteria and take Riverside Councilman Andy Melendrez on a tour of the hospital. Neither is allowed under the union contract, she said. Dallarda said hospital security is on duty to protect patients, not to harass workers. And hospital managers were never asked to leave the June 9 meeting with Councilwoman Nancy Hart.

-Douglas E. Beeman