

March 21, 2021

Metropolitan Board of Directors  
700 N. Alameda Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Directors,

Response to Board of Directors Regarding Employee Petition

First, I would like to assure you it was not my intention to cause a disturbance at a Metropolitan Board meeting for a petition between employees. Based on the harsh and threatening discussion that took place regarding my petition, you can see why more staff have not come forward. It was an example and a clear signal from the Board of why staff are not willing to speak out. To be verbally criticized by AFSCME as well as some of the Board members was brutal. Most importantly, I thought the Board wanted a safe and open environment. That is not what I felt on Tuesday, March 9, 2021. It appears to me that if my petition had contained additional criticism of Metropolitan or its leadership, it would have been welcomed.

Second, let me clarify my intent. Over the past 9 months, I have listened and read the barrage of assaults against Metropolitan and I personally am finding it very upsetting. I have spoken with various staff at all levels that feel this is not a true representation of all staff at Metropolitan. Staff, including AFSCME members, are frustrated and upset by implications imposed by AFSCME. My thought was to provide a voice from staff to the public and the Metropolitan Board. It was to allow staff who do not agree with these messages, and who have had a positive and productive career at Metropolitan, to be heard. It was never to negate any of the experiences of the women who have come forward.

A petition is a formal request with respect to a cause signed by numerous individuals. This petition was voluntarily signed by various levels of staff, including administrative staff, attorneys, operations and maintenance technicians, group managers and many others throughout Metropolitan's facilities. As you can see by my email below to Metropolitan employees, it was not meant to coerce, bully, or abuse my power as a manager.

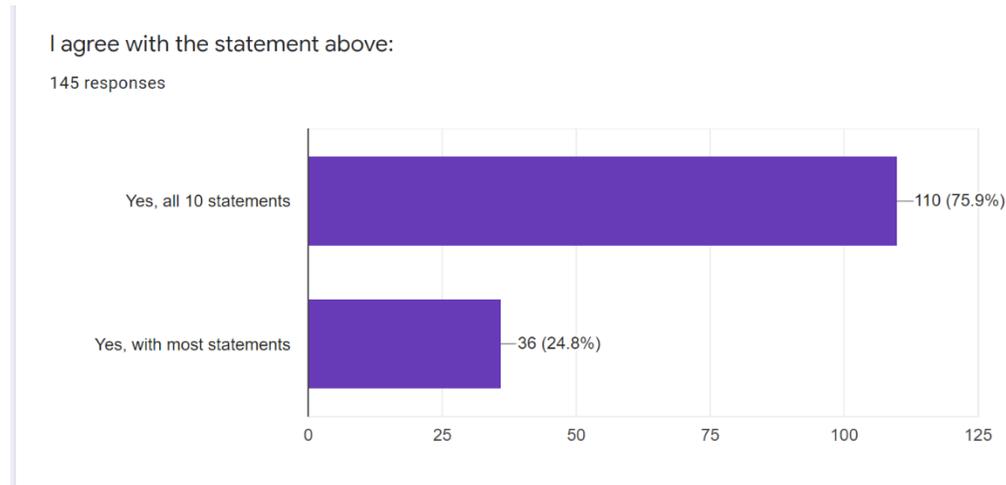
*Friends/Coworkers,*

*A petition has been initiated to bring awareness to the public as well as the Metropolitan Board regarding the number of employees who want to respond with positivity to the current climate at Metropolitan.*

*After your review, if you are supportive and would like to take a step towards positivity, please sign in solidarity. If you do not wish to sign, we understand, and no action is needed.*

*Click the link below to read and sign the petition on Google Forms.  
Please forward/distribute this petition to current, former, or retired Metropolitan employees.*

As of March 21, 2021, we have had approximately 145 current and former Metropolitan employees voluntarily sign the petition. Below is a graph displaying the results of the petition minus 3 opposers.



I have worked at Metropolitan for 19 years. I am proud of my service and the organization. I think it's crucial for the Board to know that there are different viewpoints here at Metropolitan.

Sincerely,  
Sandra Velasco