

**SAN DIEGO UNIFIED PORT DISTRICT**

**MEMORANDUM**

**Date:** May 4, 2023

**To:** Board of Port Commissioners

**Via:** Shaun D. Sumner  
Vice President, Business Operations  
ssumner@portofsandiego.org

**From:** Ken Wallis  
Director, Guest Experiences  
kwallis@portofsandiego.org

**Subject:** International Alliance Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE) Letter and Request for Free Parking in connection with Proposed Parking Rate Increases for Agenda File No. 2023-0086

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The purpose of this memo is to share with the Board staff's research and response to a letter received from IATSE Local Union 122 regarding a public hearing on proposed parking rate increases at certain locations including the Convention Center and Bayfront scheduled as Agenda Item 11 for the May 9, 2023 Board Meeting.

On April 12, 2023 staff held a public outreach meeting on the proposed rates. An IATSE representative attended the meeting but did not share any feedback. The next day, IATSE sent the Board a letter thanking staff for transparent public outreach and requesting free parking on District land (see Attachment A) to support the workers in the industry. Staff reached out to ACE Parking, the District's parking operator for the Convention Center and Bayfront, to understand how IATSE employees pay for parking.

ACE stated that Freeman Company, a trade show contractor, hires IATSE workers. Upon entry to the Convention Center or Bayfront garages, ACE charges IATSE workers \$15, the lowest end of the District's daily event rates. Freeman reimburses the worker on the same day when provided a receipt. When a receipt is lost, ACE produces an additional receipt once ACE verifies the worker's license plate in their parking system. Staff sent the attached letter to IATSE to confirm our understanding. Additionally, staff does not intend to recommend an increase to the lowest end of the District's daily event parking rates.

Please contact me at (619) 961-0475 or kwallis@portofsandiego.org, or Shaun Sumner at (619) 686-6460 or ssumner@portofsandiego.org with any questions you may have.

Attachment(s):

Attachment A: Letter from IATSE dated April 13, 2023 RE Parking Rates

Attachment B: Letter from District staff to IATSE dated May 3, 2023



Established 1905

**Attachment A**  
**International Alliance Theatrical Stage Employees**  
**Local Union 122**

3737 Camino del Rio South, Suite 307  
San Diego, CA 92108  
619/640-0042 FAX 619/640-0045  
[www.iatse122.com](http://www.iatse122.com)

4/13/2023

Port of San Diego  
3165 Pacific Highway  
San Diego, CA 92102

**RE: Parking Rates at B Street Pier & Navy Pier Parking Lots and Convention Center & Bayfront Garages**

Dear Port Chair Castellanos, Commissioners and Port Staff:

In 1905, San Diego stagehands founded IATSE Local 122 currently representing over 1,500 working families throughout San Diego County. Our skilled technicians are experienced in all technical aspects related to live theater, conventions, trade shows, concerts, film, road tours and local productions.

We are grateful for the transparent discussions on parking rates on port land.

The magic of Live Events/Productions at the convention center/bayfront hotels can obscure the challenges San Diego workers face today. It is our duty as a worker organization to shed light to an identified barrier that has too often resulted in workers saying "NO" to our industry, the sky-high parking rates. They are unsustainable for San Diego working class.

Parking rates have exceeded up to \$45.00 per day and for the average shift in our industry, a "mini" (4 hour- shift), is costing them 1/3 of their daily hard-earned wages.

San Diegans are declining jobs to due to the inaccessibility of parking on port land.

Our industry is quite unique, as it is sole gig based, generally taking small crews to build, execute, and tear down productions; having access to their vehicle is pertinent as they carry mandated tools and are often required to go to multiple venues on the same day.

San Diego stagehand workers come to you with an ask of free parking passes on port land. The revenue these productions/events generate for our port/city unequivocally offsets any parking solution provided.

Speaking truth to the challenges San Diego workers face is vital in creating sustainable solution. You have our continued commitment to be great partners and we look forward to furthering discussions.

We appreciate your time and consideration.

In solidarity,

Richard Disbrow, Business Manager

Fernanda Flores, Political Director

Dear Richard Disbrow and Fernanda Flores

RE: Letter dated April 13, 2023 regarding Port Parking Rates

VIA EMAIL: May 3, 2023

Thank you for your letter referenced above regarding the Port parking rates at the Convention Center/Bayfront hotels. Staff held a public outreach meeting on April 12 discussing recommended rate changes at the Convention Center garage, Bayfront Garage, Navy Pier and B-street pier. Juan Perez, representative from IATSE was present at the meeting.

After receiving your letter, staff reached out to ACE Parking to research the situation. ACE is the contracted operator for the Convention Center garage, Bayfront garage and Navy Pier. ACE indicated that IATSE workers are employed by Freeman contracting and upon entry to the Convention Center or Bayfront garages, they are charged a \$15 rate – which is the lowest end of the Port's daily event rates. ACE also indicated that Freeman then reimburses the IATSE worker for the \$15 on the same day when provided a receipt. If the IATSE worker loses the receipt, ACE will produce an additional receipt based on the license plate being verified in ACE's parking system.

Staff does not have any plans to recommend an increase to the lowest end of the Port's daily event rates at this time. As such, we understand according to ACE, that IATSE workers will continue to pay \$15 upon entry.

If you have any other information to share or you have any unaddressed concerns, please reach out to me at [kwallis@portofsandiego.org](mailto:kwallis@portofsandiego.org) or Kristine Love at [klove@portofsandiego.org](mailto:klove@portofsandiego.org).

Thank you

Ken Wallis

Director – Guest Experiences