

LOS ANGELES' CAMPAIGN OVERVIEW

(Updated Sept. 8, 2004)

- UNITE HERE Local 11 and the nine hotels comprising the Los Angeles Hotel Employer's Council (EC) are far apart on wage and benefit issues.
- The union has also made contract proposals – which the EC has thus far essentially rejected -- that would protect the rights of immigrant workers and implement measures to increase the diversity of the workforce by the hiring of more African Americans.
- The issue on which there is the most public disagreement is the duration of the new contract.
- With some 45,000 hotel workers in New York, Chicago, Boston, Toronto, Monterey, Sacramento and Hawaii already scheduled to negotiate new contracts in 2006, hotel workers in Los Angeles (as well as San Francisco and Washington, DC, where contracts also expire this year) want a two-year agreement.
- **Faced with the consolidation of the hotel industry during the last twenty years, hotel workers understand they can't continue to negotiate in isolation from each other.** The recent grocery workers strike and lockout in southern California illustrated in graphic terms just how willing large corporations are to absorb the costs of work stoppages in one geographical region while continuing to do business as usual everywhere else.
- Thus, in Los Angeles, the EC hotels - the majority of which are operated by two multinational chains (Starwood and Hyatt) - are insisting on a five-year contract. **The EC's goal is to keep L.A.'s hotel workers separate from their co-workers at the same hotel brands throughout North America and unequal at the bargaining table.**