

# Bay Area Airports Alert

*Improving Safety, Security and Service Standards at Airports Across the Bay Area*

## San Francisco International Airport Edition

### **Why the *Bay Area Airports Alert*?**

Airlines at San Francisco International Airport, San Jose Mineta International Airport and Oakland International Airport regularly approach Airport Commissions and City councils, seeking additional gates, expansion or opposing rental increases.

But, as a decision-maker, we want to make sure that you understand fully the airlines' economic and security impacts at Bay Area Airports. Airlines at the 3 major Bay Area airports subcontract over 7,000, mostly low-wage, service jobs, from baggage and cargo handling to wheelchair attendants, document checkers, skycaps and security personnel. Besides low-wages workers report that many of these airline subcontractors provide inadequate training and have extremely high turnover.

We look forward to working with you to help raise standards at Bay Area Airports and to ensure that airlines and the airport have the highest security standards in the nation and good jobs for our communities

### **Airline Profits Up**

#### **Thousands of Bay Area Airport Workers Still Living in Poverty**

The *Los Angeles Times* reported on October 19 that airline profits are soaring. And those profits are thanks in part to the tens of thousands airline contracted workers at Bay Area Airports and other airports across the country. But, with profits up, workers and others are asking why poverty wages, inadequate training standards and health care benefits are the norm.

The article highlighted huge jumps in earnings from several major airlines at Bay Area Airports:

- American Airlines: "profit...jumped more than tenfold"
- Delta Airlines: "net income quadrupled....compared with the year earlier period"
- Southwest Airlines: "3<sup>rd</sup> quarter earnings...up 238%"

Kate Hanni, President of the Coalition for an Airline Passengers' Bill of Rights, a consumer advocacy group, was quoted in the article: "I'm aghast there isn't more public outcry over this. **They're making money hand over fist at the expense of passengers.**"

Abraham Cruz, a contracted worker at SFO who provides services to passengers of United, said, "We want airlines to be successful and we work hard to make that a reality. But, we deserve to share in some of the success. To hear about profits in the hundreds of millions of dollars, while we workers live in poverty with no health coverage is just not right."

*Bay Area Airports Alert* will continue to cover efforts by workers, responsible contractors and responsible airlines to raise standards for workers and passengers at Bay Area Airports.

*"We want to provide the best service possible to our passengers, but low-wages, poor training and high turnover make that very hard."*

**Johnson Go**  
**Wheelchair Pusher**  
**Prospect Airport Services**

### **SFO Passes Policy to Protect Passengers with Disabilities. Prospect Airport Services Tells Workers It Means Less Money for Them**

SFO recently passed a policy to prohibit contractors from requiring workers to push more than one wheelchair at a time – a practice which endangered both passengers and workers. A good government, common sense approach to quality service at SFO!

The response of Prospect Airport Services, which provides services to airlines in the International Terminal, was to tell their employees in a bargaining meeting that the change was going to cost them a million dollars and, as a result, they would not be able to fund modest improvements the workers had proposed.

And they wonder why high turnover is a problem.



*If you have questions, or would like to subscribe to Bay Area Airports Alert, please email [wangl@seiulocal1877.org](mailto:wangl@seiulocal1877.org) or call (510)553-1877 x 15*