On April 15 and May 23, NUHW members and stewards met with members of SRMH management and human resources to bargain — in good faith — over the impacts of the construction happening in and around the cafeteria.

We were repeatedly assured by the Directors of Nutrition and HR that there had been “no discussions” regarding any layoffs or reduction in hours, and that they have “every intent of keeping” per diem workers, adding that “we always need them” and “couldn’t operate without them.” The Nutrition Director went on to explain how Cooks and Nutritional Services Aides would still be needed and even outlined some of the tasks they would be performing throughout the anticipated six months of construction. (It’s also been reported that interim CEO Tyler Hedden answered a question at the recent employee forums by confirming that there would be no layoffs related to the cafeteria construction).

Then, only eight days later, on May 31, we received notice that 13 of our members were being laid off - including 3 Cooks and 10 Nutritional Services Aides.

What happened?! What could have possibly changed in only one week to cause this?

Especially since both Directors and the interim CEO had already indicated there would be no layoffs.

By meeting with represented caregivers prior to bargaining the impact of these layoffs, and by instructing caregivers not to speak to anyone about these changes to their working conditions, SRMH management and HR continue a disturbing and aggressive pattern of disrespecting our union and violating our rights.

“There’s just no compassion from management here anymore,” said one impacted caregiver. “This has to stop. We have families to provide for and there’s so much work to do. People are with us, and everybody cares, just not the bosses,” said another.