



CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
CHARTER SECTION A8.346

**DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST STRIKING EMPLOYEES OTHER THAN
MEMBERS OF POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENT**

The people of the city and county of San Francisco hereby find that the instigation of or participation in, strikes against said city and county by any officer or employee of said city and county constitutes a serious threat to the lives, property, and welfare of the citizens of said city and county and hereby declare as follows:

- (a) As used in this section the word "strike" shall mean the willful failure to report for duty, the willful absence from one's position, any concerted stoppage or slowdown of work, any concerted interruption of operations or services by employees, or the willful abstinence in whole or in part from the full, faithful, and proper performance of the duties of employment, for the purpose of inducing, influencing, or coercing a change in the conditions of employment; provided, however, that nothing contained in this section shall be construed to limit, impair, or affect the right of any municipal employee to express or communicate a view, grievance, complaint, or opinion on any matter related to the conditions or compensation of municipal employment or their betterment, so long as the same is not designed to and does not interfere with the full, faithful, and proper performance of the duties of employment.
- (b) No person holding a position by appointment or employment under the civil service provisions of this charter, exclusive of uniformed members of the police and fire departments as provided under Section 8.345 of this charter, which persons are hereinafter referred to as municipal employees, shall strike, nor shall any municipal employee cause, instigate, or afford leadership to a strike against the city and county of San Francisco. For the purposes of this section, any municipal employee who willfully fails to report for duty, is willfully absent from his or her position, willfully engages in a work stoppage or slowdown, willfully interrupts city operations or services, or in any way willfully abstains in whole or in part from the full, faithful, and proper performance of the duties of his or her employment because such municipal employee is "honoring" a strike by other municipal employees, shall be deemed to be on strike.
- (c) No person exercising any authority, supervision, or direction over any municipal employee shall have the power to authorize, approve, or consent to a strike by any one or more municipal employees, and such person shall not authorize, approve, or consent to such strike. No officer, board, commission or committee of the city and county of San Francisco shall have the power to grant amnesty to any person who has violated any of the provisions of this section, and such officer or bodies shall not grant amnesty to any person who has violated any of the provisions of this section.
- (d) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a person violating any of the provisions of this section may subsequent to such violation be appointed or reappointed, employed or re-employed as a municipal employee of the city and county of San Francisco, but only on the following conditions:
- (1) such person shall be appointed or reappointed, employed or re-employed as a new appointee or employee, who is appointed or employed in accordance with all charter provisions, ordinances, rules or regulations of said city and county in effect for new employees at the time of appointment, reappointment, employment or re-employment;
 - (2) the compensation of such person shall not be increased by virtue of any previous employment with said city and county.
- (e) In the event of a strike, or if the mayor with the concurrence of a majority of the board of supervisors determines that a strike is imminent, a special committee shall convene forthwith, which special committee shall consist of the presidents of the airports commission, civil service commission, fire commission, police commission, public transportation commission and public utilities commission. The president of the civil service commission shall serve as chairman of the special committee. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, it shall be the duty of the special committee to dismiss in accordance with the provisions of this section any municipal employee found to be in violation of any provisions of this section. Any person may file with the special committee written charges against a municipal employee or employees in violation of any of the provisions of this section and the special committee shall receive and investigate, without undue delay, and where necessary take appropriate **actions** regarding any such written charge(s), and forthwith inform that person of its findings and **action**, or proposed **action** thereon.

(OVER)

In the event of a strike or determination of imminent strike as specified above, each appointing officer shall deliver each day no later than 12:00 o'clock noon to the chairman of the special committee a record of the absence of each employee under his or her authority for the prior day and a written report describing incidents of and the participant(s) in violations of this section wherever the identity of the participant(s) is known to him or her and the participant(s) is (are) under his or her authority.

In addition each appointing officer shall provide to the special committee, whenever it has been convened under authority of law, any other information determined by the special committee to be necessary for the discharge of its duties. The failure of an appointing officer to discharge any of the duties imposed upon him or her by this section shall be official misconduct.

(f) An employee charged by the special committee with a violation of this section shall be notified of the time and place of the hearing on the charges and of the nature of the charges against him or her. Said employee shall be given such other information as is required by due process. Said employee shall respond to said charges by a sworn affidavit, signed by him or her, and by such other information and documentation and in such a manner as is prescribed by the special committee. An employee failing to provide the responses required by this section or in any way failing to comply with the procedural time limitations and information requirements imposed by the special committee shall be immediately suspended and shall not be entitled to a hearing until he or she has fully complied with the aforementioned requirements.

If the special committee, after a hearing, determines that the charges against the employee are supported by the preponderance of the evidence submitted, said special committee shall dismiss the employee involved and said employee shall not be reinstated or returned to city and county service except as specified in Subsection (d). A dismissal or suspension invoked pursuant to the provisions of this section shall not be appealable to the civil service commission.

(g) The special committee shall discharge its duties in a timely manner while preserving the due process rights of employees with the objective of obtaining immediate sanctions against striking employees. The willful failure of any member of this special committee faithfully and fully to discharge his or her duties in a timely manner and to accord absolute priority to the performance of those duties shall be deemed official misconduct.

In the event the special committee determines that it shall be unable to comply with constitutional due process requirements that a timely hearing be provided or that it shall be unable to comply with its obligations fully and in a timely manner to investigate and hear all violations of this section, then the special committee may, subject to the budget and fiscal provisions of the charter, engage the administrative and clerical personnel, investigators, and one or more hearing officers to conduct hearings hereunder. In conducting hearings, the hearing officers shall have the same powers of inquiry and disposition as the special committee.

(h) In order to provide for the effective operation of this section in the event of a strike or determination of imminent strike, the president of the civil service commission, not later than 30 days after this section becomes effective, shall convene the special committee which shall adopt rules, regulations, and procedures for the investigation, hearing and disposition of all violations of this section.

(i) In order to bring the provisions of this section to the attention of any person who may be affected thereby, each municipal employee on the effective date of this section, exclusive of members of the uniformed forces of the police and fire departments as provided in Section 8.345 hereof, and each person appointed or employed as a municipal employee pursuant to the civil service provisions of this charter, exclusive of persons appointed to the entrance positions in the uniformed forces of the police and fire departments as provided in Section 8.345 hereof, on or after the effective date of this section shall be furnished a copy of this section and shall acknowledge such receipt in writing. The signed, written receipt shall be filed in the office of the civil service commission and maintained therein for the term of his or her employment with the City and County of San Francisco.

(j) The provisions of Sections 3.100 and 3.100-1, relating to the emergency powers of the mayor, shall not be applicable to the provisions of this section.

(k) If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subsection, or part of this section shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subsection, or part thereof directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment shall have been rendered.

SECTION 8.43 WAS ADDED TO THE CHARTER AT THE NOVEMBER 1976 ELECTION (PROPOSITION B)