

# Silicon Valley tech giant Intel scene of protests to support unionization of Intel cafeteria workers - Silicon Valley Business Journal



Maria Guadalupe Guerrero, an Intel cafeteria worker who wants to unionize, addresses the... [more](#)

In a planned act of civil disobedience, ten people were arrested for blocking a road in Santa Clara on Wednesday following a march by hundreds of people supporting unionization efforts by [Intel](#) cafeteria workers.

One of the people arrested, cited and released is [Maria Guadalupe Guerrero](#), a barista who has worked at the Intel cafeteria for around a year and four months. Guerrero is directly employed by Intel food service contractor Eurest, a subsidiary of Compass Group North America.

In a post-rally interview, Guerrero said her No. 1 motivation for wanting to organize is to gain protection against supervisors allegedly mistreating workers. She recounted a recent dispute over which pastries should be brought out to the counter.

"I got pulled in by one of the chefs into the freezer," she said. "He was talking to me like I'm a 12-year-old child."

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The march was organized and attended by members of Silicon Valley Rising, a campaign created by the South Bay Labor Council and Working Partnerships USA, San Jose-based UNITE HERE Local 19 and other groups. It's the second [labor-organized protest outside of Intel inside three months](#).

UNITE HERE has been in contact with Intel cafeteria workers about organizing since December. Local 19 represents around 4,600 food service and hotel workers and has a history with Intel — prior to November 2014, cafeteria workers were represented by the union and employed by Bon Appetit.

UNITE HERE research coordinator [Jessica Choy](#) said that in March, cafeteria workers [turned in a petition](#) to both Intel and Eurest asking the food service contractor to "agree to a fair process to enable us to exercise our right to organize and form a union without threats and intimidation." Neither company has responded.

Eurest replaced Guckenheimer Services in March as Intel's food service contractor. Vice President of Corporate Communications Lore Postman was not aware of the petition but said the company respects the rights of workers "to make an informed decision about unionization."

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