

June 2020

Mayor Wheeler  
Commissioner Fritz  
Commissioner Eudaly  
Commissioner Hardesty  
Director of Human Resources Bless  
Labor Relations Manager Gaddis  
Chief Administrative Officer Rinehart  
City of Portland  
1221 SW 4th Ave.  
Portland, OR 97204

Dear City of Portland leadership,

As representatives of the members of Laborers' Local 483, IUPAT District Council 5, PROTEC17, IBEW 48, IAM District Council Lodge W24, IUOE 701, UA 290, and AFSCME 189, we are writing to express our concern for the health and safety of our members and all City of Portland workers.

We appreciate the planning underway to support a safe return to work for City Workers and the efforts of the Labor Relations and Human Resources teams to keep us apprised of current planning. However, we remain extremely concerned with the pace at which the City is implementing key safety measures, and are writing to elevate these concerns with the hope of preventing future illnesses and exposures.

To this end, we are requesting the immediate implementation of the following:

- Development of a **city-wide safety plan** that is accessible to all employees and provides clear actions employees can take to maintain safety in their workplace.
- A **contact tracing program** that ensures workers are notified in 24 hours or less if they have been exposed to a COVID-19 positive or presumed positive co-worker.
- Assignment of a **central manager** or managers across bureaus who will oversee COVID-19 worksite safety and contact tracing.
- Mandatory COVID-19 **safety trainings** for all City employees. Topics should include personal protective equipment usage, safety and sanitation, and an overview of COVID-19 and its risks.
- Establishment of **bureau or city wide hotlines and points of contact** where employees can report incidents and receive advice.
- **Involvement of workers in all levels of planning** including the development of COVID-19 safety policies and trainings.

We are now almost 3 months into this pandemic and are concerned that basic measures to ensure worker safety—especially essential workers who throughout the pandemic have continued to report to worksites and work in the field—have not been put in place. Recent incidents with near exposures highlight the need for more centralized planning and support to frontline managers. Of concern is a planning model that provides recommendations, but not checklists and clear requirements of frontline supervisors who must quickly act to stop the chain of disease transmission in a workgroup.

Thank you for considering our requests. We look forward to working together to rapidly ensure the safety of our members and your workforce.



Farrell Richartz  
Business Manager, Laborers' Local 483



Jack Johnson  
IUPAT District Council 5



Rachel Whiteside  
Union Representative, PROTEC17



Lisa Serrano  
IBEW 48



Will Lukens  
IAM District Council Lodge W24



Chris Montgomery  
IUOE 701



Pat Christensen  
DCTU President, UA 290



Bao Nguyen  
AFSCME Council Representative