



**TEAMSTERS, CHAUFFEURS,
WAREHOUSEMEN AND HELPERS
LOCAL UNION No. 542**

San Diego and Imperial Counties, California
and the City of Yuma, Arizona

Affiliated with

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS



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April 8, 2020

To: Rodolfo Aguayo, Human Resources & Risk Management Director;
Janette Angulo, M.P.A., Director of Public Health;

From: Flavio Grijalva, Jr. (Business Representative)
Ruth Duarte (Business Representative)

RE: COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Outbreak Exposure

This letter is to place the County of Imperial on notice that Teamsters Union Local 542 has reached a point of No Confidence in the abilities and responsibilities of the above-mentioned directors. On March 5, 2020, Governor Newsom declared a California State of Emergency due to the COVID-19 outbreak and on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization officially declared the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic. In the weeks following, Teamsters Union Local 542, reached out to the County of Imperial to address the health and safety concerns that were being expressed by the County employees represented by Local 542 and to establish guidelines, protocols and agreements to be put in place so as to minimize the exposure of both the public and the employees of the County of Imperial.

Unfortunately, the County of Imperial did not take these recommendations or requests seriously. In the last three weeks, three (3) County of Imperial employees have now been confirmed as being COVID-19 positive cases, with the last confirmation triggering the closure of the Brawley One-Stop Center. Though we understand that we cannot be given these employees' names, the employees were entitled to know about their possible exposure in a timely and pro-active fashion. The County failed, on multiple times, to investigate quickly and inform staff in a timely and appropriate manner of their possible exposure. They also failed to timely disinfect appropriately and effectively, the areas and work stations where employees and the public had been exposed. The county is in fact obligated like everyone else in the State to be constantly and consistently sanitizing and taking active measures to minimize exposure. The county also failed to separate staff and maintain social distancing protocols, as outlined by State and Federal recommendations. Instead of mandating a 50% reduction in office personnel, by establishing appropriate skeleton crews, the County chose to extend operational hours, that still has an overlap of majority of employees working in close contact to each other. To our knowledge, there has been no attempt to acquire additional equipment for personnel to telework from outside the office environment so that they can stay at home and social distance and still do the work of the County.

Now, in a reactive position, the Brawley One-Stop Center, will be closed for the remainder of the week, and only now, almost one-month after first knowledge of an employee that

was confirmed positive, is the office being sanitized properly. We find this to be both unacceptable and incomprehensible as to the delay of this action. Teamsters Union Local 542 is demanding action from the Board of Supervisors to implement a County-Wide action plan, that protects both the employees and the public and minimizes the risk they have failed to provide to the community.

This request is made as one voice, from both the Membership of Teamsters Union Local 542 and the Community of the County of Imperial.

Fraternally,



Flavio Grijalva, Jr.
Business Representative



Ruth Duarte
Business Representative

Cc: Tony Rihoutas, Chief Executive Officer, County of Imperial
Luis Plancarte, Board Supervisor, District 2, Chairman
Jesus Escobar, Board Supervisor, District 1
Michael Kelley, Board Supervisor, District 3
Ryan Kelley, Board Supervisor, District 4
Ray Castillo, Board Supervisor, District 5