



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ON INTERNATIONAL WORKERS' DAY, UFCW LOCAL 7 STANDS WITH UNREPRESENTED GROCERY WORKERS DURING THE MAY DAY STRIKE

Colorado's Largest Private Sector Union Invites Essential Workers of Whole Foods, Amazon, Instacart and Target to Unionize with UFCW Local 7 of Colorado & Wyoming

DENVER – Today, as thousands of essential employees of Whole Foods, Amazon, Instacart and Target across Colorado and Wyoming strike against unsafe working conditions amid the COVID-19 pandemic, Kim Cordova, President of [UFCW Local 7](#), which represents 22,000 workers, issued the following statement:

“The work of America’s grocery and warehouse workers is critical to protecting the food supply chains. Many of these essential workers are in low-wage jobs that don’t provide paid sick leave or health benefits, even during a highly contagious global pandemic. Without basic health and safety measures to protect employees and their customers from COVID-19, companies are only ensuring that more people get infected, jeopardizing lives, family’s incomes, and of course, the country’s food supply chain.

“As part of its commitment to its members, the UFCW Local 7 has successfully negotiated with companies to provide its retail members with a wide range of health and safety measures to ensure a safe working environment during COVID-19. We invite any interested workers to join the UFCW Local 7 in the fight for common sense measures that can keep our essential employees safe and protected, as well as local communities, such as mandatory testing and

PPE for all workers, paid sick leave, full healthcare coverage, staggered shifts and much more.”

Individuals interested in organizing with the UFCW Local 7 can reach out to the Organizing Department at 303-425-0897 ext 201 or 720-439-0056 for more information.

Below is a list of some of the current health and safety measures the UFCW Local 7 has negotiated with local member companies and lobbied with the state government to provide a safe working environment to frontline employees during COVID-19:

- Frontline pay increases and bonuses
 - King Soopers employees will receive a lump-sum Hero Bonus ranging from \$150 to \$300
 - Safeway & King Soopers employees will receive Hero Pay of \$2.00 more per hour
- Two weeks paid sick leave for any member with COVID-19 symptoms, a diagnosis of COVID-19 and other qualifiers as well
- Employer-provided PPE including masks, gloves and hand sanitizer
- New mandatory health and safety measures for employees
 - Pre-shift COVID-19 screenings
 - Employee testing locations in
 - Paid handwashing breaks
- Store adjustments
 - Mandated customer social distancing
 - Adjusted store hours
 - Limits on the number of customers allowed at any one time
 - Plexi-glass sneeze and cough protectors installed at check stands
 - Routine cleaning and sanitizing at check stands and other high traffic areas

Current Benefits Received by UFCW Local 7 Members

- **Quality Healthcare:** Our retail employees currently pay: \$7.50 per week for single coverage healthcare with only a \$500 deductible, and less than \$25.00 per week for family coverage healthcare with a maximum of \$1500 deductible. This includes Health, Dental, Vision, Prescription drug, Short Term Disability and Life Insurance for the member.

- **Pension Plans:** A defined benefit pension plan that the Employer pays into. Employees do not have to make any contributions. This plan lasts for the rest of an individual's life once they retire. Further, individuals can also elect the Spousal option that allows their spouse to draw a percentage of their retirement after they pass away.
- **Fair Wages:** Daily overtime pay after 8 hours, guaranteed a minimum of four hours of work if an individual is called into work, regular and guaranteed pay increases, credit for prior retail experience and seniority-based job bidding procedures. Job bidding awarded by seniority
- **Paid Leave:** Guaranteed up to 600 hours of paid sick leave, paid bereavement leave, paid vacations and paid holidays.
- **Military Benefits:** The UFCW Local 7 deeply appreciates our military heroes and has negotiated contract language rewarding individuals for their service in the military.
- **Job Security:** Guaranteed minimum of 20 hours per week and if you are hired on a part-time basis but work four consecutive weeks at 40 hours or more, the Company is required to create a full-time position. Further, UFCW Local 7 has negotiated "Workforce of the Future" provisions to protect our members in the event of further automation and technological changes.
- **Workplace Safety:** Safety committees with employee members and regular safety inspections.
- **Workplace Grievances:** You can only be terminated for just cause. If you feel you have been wrongly terminated for a contract violation or face unsubstantiated disciplinary action, your Union Representative or a Union Lawyer will represent you in a grievance and arbitration procedure at no cost.

Other Union Benefits through the UFCW Local 7 Union Privilege Program

- Free 2 year online college program for the member, their spouse, their children, their grandchildren or domestic partner.
- Free online language classes.
- Access to academic scholarship opportunities
- Access to hardship funds.
- Numerous discount opportunities to our members ranging from discounted tickets to sporting events, discounted tickets to amusement

parks, discounts to rental car, discounts to numerous restaurants, discounts for oil changes and tires, discount on closing costs of buying a home, free legal consultation, and the list goes on and on.

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[Local 7](#), the largest Union in Colorado is affiliated with United Food and Commercial Workers International Union which represents over 1.3 million workers in the United States and Canada, and is one of the largest private sector Unions in North America. UFCW members work in a wide range of industries, including retail food, food processing, agriculture, retail sales, and health care.