



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **ANOTHER KROGER GROCERY WORKER DIES FROM COVID-19, YET KROGER REFUSES TO IMPROVE STORE SAFETY MEASURES AND CUTS HERO PAY**

**DENVER** – Kim Cordova, President of UFCW Local 7, which represents more than 26,000 grocery workers in Colorado and Wyoming, issued the following statement:

“It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our brother Randy Narvaez, a beloved member of Local 7 and the Denver community. Mr. Narvaez was an essential grocery worker at the King Sooper, owned by Kroger, and located at 1155 E 9th Ave in Denver in the Capitol Hill neighborhood, where he worked for over 30 years.”

“Mr. Narvaez’s store, King Sooper #29 has approximately 12 cases of COVID amongst employees, the highest number of any King Sooper in the Denver metro area. Local 7 is demanding that Kroger close King Sooper #29 to properly clean and disinfect the entire store to ensure worker and customer safety, and to test every worker for COVID-19 prior to reopening.”

“Additionally, we are also calling on Kroger to increase employee testing, improve store safety measures such as mandatory face masks for customers and entrants, limit the number of shoppers in a store at one time, enforce social distancing, and maintain worker’s Hero Pay of \$2.00 an hour. For more than two months, grocery workers like Mr. Narvaez have put their lives at risk to serve their communities. His death, the second of our King Sooper members to pass from COVID-19, should not be in vain. We will continue to call on Kroger’s stores in Colorado and Wyoming -- King Soopers in Colorado and City Market and Smith’s in Wyoming -- to take action to protect its employees and customers.”

As cities in Colorado and Wyoming loosen restrictions without having adequate testing, grocery stores will become more dangerous for essential grocery workers as customer traffic increases. The uptick in the number of essential grocery workers testing positive for COVID-19 shows the dire need to improve safety for everyone at Kroger stores.

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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.*