



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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UFCW LOCAL 7 STANDS IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEACEFUL PROTESTORS AND DEMANDS JUSTICE AND EQUALITY FOR ALL AMERICANS

UFCW Local 7 President Kim Cordova Calls On Members And All Americans To Stand Together Against The Oppression Silencing The Rights and Health Of Working People And People Of Color

Denver - This week the UFCW Local 7 stands with the Floyd family, Black Lives Matter, and all Americans who continue to protest peacefully throughout Colorado and Wyoming. Our country faces a number of crises that are attacking the core of our democracy. As the death tolls from COVID-19 continue to rise in communities and essential workplaces across the country, we are also reeling from the horrific murder of George Floyd and other African Americans. These crises share an underlying similarity: inequality and discrimination.

Kim Cordova, President of UFCW Local 7, which represents more than 30,000 essential workers in Colorado and Wyoming, issued the following statement:

“The inequities that exist for people of color and working Americans are part of a systemic discrimination that has festered for too long in this country. The mass protests of the last week have ripped the bandaid off to reveal a wounded society. The simple fact is that America cares about the prosperity, health and well-being of some of her children, but not all.

A global pandemic has upended our daily activities and our economy. It has revealed the unspoken, yet blatant disregard for the health and safety of essential workers-- many of whom are minorities or come from under-represented communities.

At the same time we experience unprecedented health and economic obstacles, our nation has taken to streets to protest the horrific murder of George Floyd. His life, like so many others from the African American community, meant nothing to the authorities who are supposed to protect every American.

The combination of events serve as a reminder that the rights of people of color and working people are not valued. Instead, they are disregarded by our elected officials and leaders who care more about the prosperity of corporations rather than the hardworking Americans who allow them to prosper.

Over and over again we witness working people in our communities labeled as ‘essential’ but treated as disposable. This must end. Change is not a given. The turmoil in the streets tells us that the time to demand action is now.

We stand strong with our members, we fight hard for and alongside all vulnerable communities, and we stand especially strong today with all those who have been treated less than they should.”

We call on all employers and policy makers to:

- Give workers paid sick leave and disability coverage
- Permanently reinstate higher pay for all essential workers
- Commit to policies that ensure basic safety for all workers
- Commit to policies that will actively disrupt racist practices

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Local 7, the largest private sector 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.

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