



Ron Herrera  
President

Thom Davis  
Chair

March 16, 2021

**Sent Via Email**

Pasadena EdTech Committee  
100 North Garfield Ave.  
Pasadena, CA 91101

**RE: Hazard Pay for Grocery Workers**

To Whom It May Concern:

The Los Angeles County Federation of Labor (LA Fed) is strongly supportive of enacting Hero Pay for front-line grocery workers. As the entity that represents over 800,000 working women and men in Los Angeles County, we hear first-hand accounts of the struggles that working families are facing as a result of COVID-19, particularly those in the grocery industry. Since day 1 of the pandemic, grocery workers have served as essential workers for the public, putting their own personal livelihood and that of their families at risk in order to ensure that the public is able to purchase essential groceries. To underscore the sacrifice that grocery workers have made, there have been outbreaks across multiple grocery outlets throughout the region, which have taxed the employment benefits of grocery workers, put their families in harm's way, and, sadly, taken the lives of some grocery employees. Meanwhile, large grocery chains have made record profits during the pandemic.

Front-line grocery workers are heroes: they've made record profits for large grocers while disproportionately dealing with the negative consequences of the pandemic. The least we can do is honor them with pay that shows, beyond words, that they are, in fact, heroes. Let's show them that we truly recognize their sacrifice by voting yes on Item 1.

Please do not hesitate to call me should you have any questions or need additional information.

In Solidarity,

Ron Herrera  
President

# 770



March 16, 2021

Sent Via Email

**UFCW LOCAL 770**  
P.O. BOX 770  
Hollywood, CA 90078  
(213) 487-7070 or/fo  
(800) UFCW 770  
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Monday – Friday

Pasadena City Council  
Chair Tyron Hampton  
Economic Development and Technology Committee  
100 North Garfield Avenue  
Pasadena, CA 91101

**RE: Support for Hero Pay for Grocery and Drug Retail Workers**

Dear Chair Hampton and Fellow Committee Members:

On behalf of the United Food and Commercial Workers Local 770, we are writing to express our strong support for an emergency, temporary ordinance of \$5.00 hazard pay for retail workers in grocery and drug retail in the City of Pasadena. This policy only affects large companies of 300 or more employees and 10 workers onsite for 120 days and has been passed in multiple jurisdictions including Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, West Hollywood, Santa Monica, Long Beach, Irvine, Pomona, Montebello, Buena Park, Santa Ana, Oakland, San Jose, San Francisco, Seattle, Berkeley, San Leandro, San Mateo, and Santa Clara County. It is currently to be voted on in Burbank, Glendale, Alhambra, and South Pasadena. The California Grocer's Association lost two decisions in Court upon filing a lawsuit against the City of Long Beach. It affects both union and nonunion workers.

Grocery and drug retail workers have been risking their lives and been on the frontlines of the pandemic for a year now. The risks for grocery and drug retail workers remains high as it will take months for all 88,000 essential workers in Los Angeles County to become vaccinated. Meanwhile, workers have been calling on their corporations to reinstate hazard pay as companies see record profits. Major grocers and drug retail stores, including Albertsons (which owns Vons), Target, and Kroger (owner of Ralphs) agreed to pay Pasadena grocery store workers a \$2 an hour hazard pay increase in March 2020, only to end it six weeks later in May. Meanwhile grocery store and drug retail companies have seen their net earnings skyrocket this year. According to a recent study conducted by the Brookings Institute, Albertsons had the highest profit growth of all the retail companies in their analysis. Their pandemic profits are up a stunning 149% in the first three quarters of 2020 compared to 2019. The company spent nearly \$1.9 billion in stock buybacks in the first three quarters of last year, compared to the approximate \$350 million, pre-tax, the company spent on hazard pay and expanded sick pay for its workers. The company paid out \$47.2 million in shareholder dividends in 2020, after going public in June of 2020.<sup>1</sup>

Every day grocery and drug retail workers are getting infected. Grocery stores remain at 50% capacity as we are not out of the woods. To date, over 5,800 UFCW 770 members have contracted COVID-19. In December and January alone, over 2,500 members have become infected. At least 15 members locally have passed away. Recently both the Pasadena Ralphs and CVS stores experienced outbreaks of 3 or more employees becoming infected within a two week period.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/the-avenue/2021/01/27/local-covid-19-hazard-pay-mandates-are-doing-what-congress-and-most-corporations-arent-for-essential-workers/>

**LOS ANGELES  
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Los Angeles, CA  
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Bakersfield  
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Harbor City  
Huntington Park  
Santa Barbara  
Santa Clarita

Pasadena City Council  
Chair Tyron Hampton  
March 16, 2021  
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We urge this Committee to move forward on this policy, and thank you for your commitment to the residents, customers, and community of Pasadena.

Sincerely,  
UFCW LOCAL 770

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John M. Grant". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "G".

John M. Grant, President

JMG:jc

**From:** City Web  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 16, 2021 11:05 AM  
**To:** Duyshart, Eric; Robles, Sandra  
**Subject:** Public Comment for Economic Development & Technology Committee meeting on March 16, 2021 about agenda item 1

## **Public Comment for Economic Development & Technology Committee Meeting on March 16, 2021 about agenda item 1**

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**Select one City legislative body for the comment** Economic Development & Technology Committee

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**Meeting Date** March 16, 2021

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**Agenda Item** 1

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**Name** Dan

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**City** Pasadena

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**State** CA

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**Zip Code** 91101

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**Comments (under 200 words)** Dear Committee Members,

I urge you to support bringing Hero Pay to Pasadena grocery and pharmacy workers who have been working hard during the pandemic. As an essential worker myself, I understand first hand what it is like to go back into work with the fear of getting covid. It is imperative that we show gratitude for our city's essential workers with financial support.

We can support these essential workers by increasing their wages \$5/hour for a 120 day period. Such an ordinance would only impact major groceries/pharmacies and not small businesses. There are 37 stores in Pasadena that are part of the large

national chains that have experienced a significant increase in profit during the pandemic. Let Pasadena join Los Angeles County, City of Los Angeles, Montebello, West Hollywood, Long Beach, Irvine, Buena Park, Pomona, Coachella and many other cities across the state in supporting these employees who are working in high COVID-19 exposure conditions!

**I consent to have my  
comment read out  
loud during the  
meeting.**      No