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SHEET METAL WORKERS' INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

Local Union 19

1301 SOUTH COLUMBUS BOULEVARD, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19147

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Members of Local 19

We find ourselves in the third week of the coronavirus pandemic. While some jobsites have reopened in Pennsylvania via the waiver process, it is unfortunate that the General Contractors on a few of these projects were not complying with the CDC regulations and preventative precautions.

Because of this we felt that the workers on those projects were in danger and it was decided to pull our Local 19 members off of these sites which are not in compliance with the CDC standards. These projects include: the Xfinity Live casino project in South Philadelphia, The police Administration building in Center City Philadelphia, and the Philadelphia Art Museum.

The safety of our members always comes first and that is why we have come to this decision. The plan is to give the General Contractors managing these sites a few weeks to try and meet our requests before our members are cleared to return. From the beginning of this epidemic it's been my position and this administration's position that if a member does not feel safe, if they have to care for a loved one or child who is home from school, or have someone in their household who is immune deficient, we support their decision to take as much time off as they feel is necessary.

Keep in mind that we are closely monitoring the projects that have reopened and remain open in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware to ensure the General Contractors are making every effort possible to place our members' health and safety above all else. These projects which have been shut down may only be the beginning of many other site closures where we may decide to pull our members from if the GC's do not live up to our requests in regard to protecting the safety of our members.

Local 19 will continue to always put our members and their families first. We all want to go back to leading our normal lives, but until we can do that the proper safeguards must be in place to ensure the health of our Union Families or we simply will not be on those projects.

If you need anything, do not hesitate to reach out to my office.

Fraternally,

Gary J. Masino  
President/Business Manager  
Sheet Metal Workers' Local 19