

PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

Proclamation No. CP20-0427 Calling on Colorado Meat Processers to Provide for Enhanced Worker Safety

WHEREAS, Colorado's meat-packing industry is a critical link in the food supply chain for the city and state, and as such it has been ordered under the U.S. Defense Production Act to remain in operation amid the risks to health and to life of their workers due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration have issued interim guidance for meat and poultry processing workers and employers that remain in operation, and following those guidelines may provide companies with protection from liability claims from impacted workers; and

WHEREAS, there has been communal spread of the coronavirus that causes COVID-19 among workers at processing plants and their families, and that has resulted in thousands of confirmed infections and resulting high number of deaths, all of which could have been reduced with implementation of enhanced worker safety measures; and

WHEREAS, the front-line workforce in the meat processing industry is dominated by lower-wage and immigrant workers, and they are categorized as essential workers who are needed to help ensure that the people of this state and the nation are able to obtain the food they need to feed their families; and

WHEREAS, it is in the certain and vital interests of Denver, the state of Colorado and the nation that the workers in this essential industry be protected to the extent necessary to safeguard their health and well-being.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER:

Section 1. That the Council of the City and County of Denver calls on the meat processors of Colorado to fully implement the interim guidance of the CDC and OSHA by providing its workforce with enhanced personal protective equipment including face shields and new N95 respirators for each shift.

Section 2. That the Council of the City and County of Denver calls on meat processors collaborate with workers on additional measures that will ensure a safe and secure workforce, including safety training in the languages its workers understand, extra time for hand washing and donning or doffing PPE, regular plant-wide testing for frontline workers and management, paid quarantine time off for workers who test positive for COVID-19, and protection from retaliation for workers who feel ill, remain home in quarantine or who report symptoms, or who report suspected violations of CDC and OSHA guidelines.

Section 3. That the Clerk of the City and County of Denver shall attest and affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that a copy be transmitted to representatives of JBS USA Holdings, Cargill Inc., and the United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local 7.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL MAY 4, 2020

PRESIDENT