



TEAMSTERS LOCAL UNION 117

Affiliated with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters

General Public and Private Sector Employees and Special Services Employees in King and Pierce Counties and Employees of the State of Washington

November 19, 2021

Mr. Stephen Metruck
Executive Director
Port of Seattle
PO Box 1209
Seattle, WA 98111

Via Email Transmittal
Metruck.S@portseattle.org
Hard Copy to Follow

Re: Vaccine Mandate

Dear Mr. Metruck:

We write with extreme concern over the safety of our Port of Seattle Police Department employees and the traveling public.

The vaccine mandate you unilaterally imposed on your employees and your intransigence over allowing Port of Seattle Police Officers, Sergeants, Commanders, and Traffic Support Specialists, who have received at least one dose of a COVID vaccine, to work are putting your employees and the public at great risk during the holidays.

The Port Police Department is already experiencing a staffing shortage of seventeen (17) officers and nearly ten (10) Traffic Support Specialists. We anticipate that TSA will also experience serious shortages in staffing after November 22nd due to the federal vaccine mandate.

There are fourteen (14) Officers, Sergeants, and Commanders and three (3) Traffic Support Specialists who have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, which provides a meaningful level of immunity against the virus. Yet, you are prohibiting these employees from working until they are fully vaccinated. That decision is completely contrary to your stated goal of ensuring the health and safety of your employees and the public.

Record numbers of people will be traveling through SeaTac airport next week. The number of Port of Seattle Police employees who are fully vaccinated is insufficient to meet safe staffing levels for these volumes. These employees – the ones who responsibly got vaccinated - will likely be forced to work eighty (80) hours per week or more, which necessarily results in fatigue, impaired judgment, and greater risk of illness due to lower immune systems. Lower staffing and fatigued staff will result in longer response times in

an environment that is already fraught due to heavy travel volume and reduced security check points.

We urge you call back those Officers, Sergeants, Commanders, and Traffic Support Specialists who have received at least one dose of a COVID vaccine. Allowing them to work is the only way to ensure safety and security of your airport employees, customers, vendors, and the traveling public.

Be advised that we have informed our members that every employee has the right to a safe work environment and that if they believe that they will be unsafe by reporting to work, they may refuse to do so.

If your sincere objective is to protect the health and safety of your employees and the public you serve, permitting those Police Department employees who have received at least one dose of the vaccine to work is the only responsible course of action.

Sincerely,



John Scearcy
Secretary-Treasurer, Local 117



Scott Sullivan
Secretary-Treasurer, Local 763