



SHAMANN WALTON

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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*****PRESS RELEASE*****

*****SAN FRANCISCO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS UNANIMOUSLY PASS \$5 HAZARD
PAY FOR RETAIL GROCERY WORKERS AND DRUG STORE WORKERS*****

SAN FRANCISCO, CA - Today, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors unanimously passed an emergency ordinance authorizing \$5 per hour of hazard pay for retail grocery workers and pharmacy workers during the COVID-19 local emergency. San Francisco now joins other Bay Area cities like Daly City, San Mateo, Berkeley, San Leandro, San Jose, South San Francisco, Oakland, and the County of Santa Clara as well as other California cities such as Long Beach, LA, Santa Ana, Irvine, Costa Mesa, Coachella, Santa Monica, and Montebello, who have all enacted similar ordinances on hazard pay for retail grocery workers.

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, retail grocery and drug store workers have continued working and serving their communities, despite the ongoing hazards, including the high risk of contracting COVID-19 through public interaction. Their commitment to essential work has ensured San Franciscan residents access to food, medication, and other essential goods during this pandemic. Unlike workers in other sectors of the economy, grocery and drug store workers cannot work from home. The nature of their jobs requires them to work at a store, usually indoors and with less air circulation than an open outdoor environment, which presents a heightened risk of contracting COVID-19.

“Our essential grocery workers are often paid minimum wage and are expected to take high risks by constant exposure to the public. While we have protocols in place to wear a mask, stay 6-feet apart, and stay home if you’re sick, we know these protocols are not always followed by the public,” said President Shamann Walton. “This emergency ordinance compensates grocery workers and drug store workers who have had heightened exposure throughout this pandemic by working to survive.”

“We are glad under President Walton’s leadership, San Francisco has joined the growing list of cities throughout the Bay Area to mandate Hazard pay for retail drug and grocery workers,” said



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Jim Araby, Strategic and Political Director of United Food and Commercial Workers, Local 5. “These workers have sacrificed their health and Safety to ensure that our food and other essential needs have been met throughout this pandemic. While case numbers have decreased and vaccinations are going up, many workers still have risks bringing COVID home and passing this hazard pay will reward them for continuing to take this risk.”

“Grocery and drug store workers have put themselves, their health and safety on the line since the beginning of the pandemic so the rest of us could eat,” said Supervisor Matt Haney. “They deserve our gratitude, and they also deserve better protections and better pay.”

“Grocery workers have been our heroes throughout this pandemic. They have remained on the job, kept the doors open, and consistently ensured that we have access to food and supplies. Our workers deserve this hazard pay and more for their service to our communities.” said Supervisor Hillary Ronen.

“There has not been one incident where a grocery store or drug store was shut down during this pandemic due to COVID-19,” said Supervisor Ahsha Safai. “This is a testament to the workers who have kept these stores open and safe. I am proud to be a co-sponsor of this legislation to give our grocery and drug store workers hazard pay.”

“We would like to thank the President of the Board of Supervisors, Shamann Walton and all the Supervisors who helped pass this ordinance,” said Dan Larson, President of United Food and Commercial Workers, Local 648. “The passage of this ordinance highlights the dangerous conditions that our grocery and drug workers face every day.”

Earlier this year, the Board of Supervisors passed a resolution urging grocery stores to provide \$5 of hazard pay to their workers during this pandemic and this emergency ordinance is a follow up to that resolution, which will be in effect for 60 days or however long the local emergency lasts. This emergency ordinance will temporarily require retail grocery stores, pharmacies, and janitorial and security contractors whose employees work on-site at these locations to provide \$5 per hour of hazard pay to employees who make under \$35 per hour or under \$75,000 a year. This will only apply to grocery stores and retail pharmacies with at least 20 employees in San Francisco and 500 or more employees worldwide with an option for employers to be exempted through negotiating a collective bargaining agreement. This ordinance does not include small or



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mom and pop grocery stores or pharmacies that do not meet those requirements. The ordinance will go into effect three days after the Mayor signs off.

Find the full language and supporting documents of the emergency ordinance [here](#).

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