

**Maricela Hernandez**

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**From:** Tracey Arnold <tlearnold@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 23, 2021 9:11 AM  
**To:** Maricela Hernandez  
**Subject:** For May 26 council meeting: use of stimulus money

To Whom It Concerns,

While there's no question that essential/frontline workers such as those working in grocery stores are owed hero's pay for working through the pandemic, I object to The City of Calabasas funding it with stimulus money. Ralph's (Kroger), Albertsons, Gelsons are large corporations who can afford to pay their employees their well deserved hero's pay. They just don't want to because it would decrease their profits. Given the ongoing increases in food and household costs, those profits continue to inflate. The City of Calabasas' shouldn't feel a responsibility to make up for corporations who lack morals and empathy. And why stop at grocery workers? What about offering hero's pay to the people who worked at Starbucks, gas stations, the post office, etc.? Whatever the profession, it's the employers who must be held accountable to reward their employees for a job well done.

In fact, The Calabasas Chamber of Commerce should encourage their members, especially those with larger businesses, to pay their employees hero's pay. **Instead, the Chamber is likely responsible for businesses colluding not to pay their employees hero's pay.** This is why The City of Calabasas should absolutely not give any of the stimulus funds to the Chamber. Sure the Chamber may have given businesses advice on how to remain open during the pandemic but that's their job. Furthermore, these businesses choose to open in Calabasas because they think they can make more money here. Most of them thrive. Yes, the pandemic decreased their profits temporarily but they survived and now many of them will go back to overcharging. The Chamber didn't do anything heroic and aren't deserving of or owed any stimulus money from The City of Calabasas. Though sadly, I suspect the Calabasas City Council will vote to give money to the Chamber to earn the Chamber members votes in the coming Council elections.

I'd much rather see the stimulus money go to the LVUSD to benefit the citizens who were hit hardest by the pandemic, students. I heard today that LVUSD is cutting their music and theatre programs due to the LVUSD needing to adjust the budget because of the unexpected expenses caused by Covid-19. Music and theatre programs challenge students to think creatively, learn new skills and problem solve which will help them succeed in work and in life. These skills are also desired by many of the creative businesses in Los Angeles and afar. Music and theatre programs require after school participation, which means students continue learning instead of getting into mischief. Subsidizing arts programs in the schools is something The City of Calabasas could take pride in as we witness our children grow into productive citizens. As the LVUSD is one of

Calabasas's most important assets, it is deserving of a gift of some of The City of Calabasas's stimulus money.

Additionally, stimulus money could be used to improve The City of Calabasas offered programs for pre-teens and teens to enjoy. Something to do, somewhere to go on a Friday night or anytime besides The Commons. Offer dances, sports competitions and/or tech fairs, art fairs. The City of Calabasas should've built a teen center with a robust program years ago. It's time for The City of Calabasas to do for teens what they've done for Calabasas seniors.

Tracey Arnold  
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Calabasas, CA 91302  
818-522-8563

## Maricela Hernandez

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**From:** sloane Balkwill <sloaniepooh@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 26, 2021 3:43 PM  
**To:** Maricela Hernandez  
**Subject:** Hero Pay

To whom it may concern,  
My name is Sloane Balkwill.

I am writing this to say thank you On behalf of the entire staff of Gelsons Calabasas and the other surrounding grocery stores! We appreciate your willingness and the effort your staff has put in to finding these for options on hero pay! I do not want assume that this in fact happening but if it is we are humbled! Humbled by the fact that you have heard us and that you have seen our struggles over the past year! I will be there tonight to say just this and to give some input into what we feel is the most fair option. Thank you so much for your time and for your support.

Sloane Balkwill

Sent from my iPhone

## Maricela Hernandez

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**Subject:** FW: UFCW 770 Recommendations on Public Funds Distribution

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Nam Le** <[nam.le@ufcw770.org](mailto:nam.le@ufcw770.org)>

Date: Tue, May 25, 2021 at 4:03 PM

Subject: Re: UFCW 770 Recommendations on Public Funds Distribution

To: <[maureredge@gmail.com](mailto:maureredge@gmail.com)>

CC: Rachel Torres <[rachel.torres@ufcw770.org](mailto:rachel.torres@ufcw770.org)>

Afternoon Councilmember Maurer:

I hope this email finds you well. My name is Nam Le and I am filling in for Rachel Torres while she is out on medical leave.

I wanted to share an important update with you. On May 11<sup>th</sup>, the [US Treasury released their anticipated guidance on the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds](#). As part of the American Recovery Act of 2021 this pot of money will be available to state and local government to help pay for, among other things, premium pay for essential workers. Congress provided funds so that America's essential workers could be compensated in some small way for the sacrifices made while working through a global pandemic. Workers in a number of critical industries including meat processing and grocery could now be eligible for premium pay.

[UFCW praised the Biden Administration guidance calling for essential worker COVID premium pay](#) to be prioritized as governors distribute the \$350 billion in state and local COVID relief aid from the American Rescue Plan.

### **Provide premium pay for essential workers:**

Recognizing the continuous work of essential workers during the pandemic, the Funds can be used to provided premium pay directly, or through grants to private employers, to essential workers who must be physically present at their jobs. including those whose work involves protecting the health and wellbeing of their communities.

Thank you in advance for your leadership and guidance. Can we schedule a time to talk with you and your staff?

All the best,

Nam

On Thu, Apr 29, 2021 at 3:26 PM Rachel Torres <[rachel.torres@ufcw770.org](mailto:rachel.torres@ufcw770.org)> wrote:

Dear Mayor Bozajian and Fellow Council Members:

Attached please find UFCW Local 770's recommendations regarding the distribution of public funds in support of grocery and drug retail workers.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Best regards,  
Rachel Torres

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Rachel Torres  
Deputy Political and Civil Rights Director  
UFCW 770  
T: 805.765.7491  
[www.ufcw770.org](http://www.ufcw770.org)

