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## THE CONGRESS OF ESSENTIAL WORKERS' DC MARCH ON JEFF BEZOS: AUGUST 27, 2020 AT NOON EST

**August 19, 2020** - "I don't see how they can sleep at night. I haven't gotten a good night of sleep in weeks [...] And the people making all the money are comfortable off the grid somewhere, and they're getting on TV and saying everything is fine while we're in the trenches," said Christian Smalls to Jacobin's Megan Day.

Chris gave this interview on March 29, 2020, the day before he and other workers from fulfillment center JFK8 walked out to raise awareness to negligent safety guidelines and the indifference of management to protect their workers. Two days later, on March 31, 2020, he was wrongfully terminated by the company. To this day, fulfillment centers around the world are still struggling with horrible working conditions and at times, it feels as if the world has forgotten the humanitarian crisis behind two-day shipping.

A man worth \$197,100,000,000 (Forbes) can and should continue to pay his employees who live with chronic illness and are unable to work through the duration of the pandemic. Amazon, a company that reported record-high profits last quarter, should have running water, working faucets, and bathrooms at all of their facilities at all times. A global conglomerate with access to resources from hundreds of other subsidiary companies should be able to supply personal protective equipment (PPE) for every single employee and sanitation supply stations located throughout each facility. There are workers across the country who have gone without these necessities as recently as this week.

"Still our demands fall on deaf ears. It's crazy. They don't care if we fall sick," Chris said this in an interview with The Guardian *four* months ago, and it holds true today. That is why TCOEW will continue to march on his properties across the country. That is why we will continue to rally outside his multi-million dollar homes with our bull horns, shouting our demands. And that is why we will be outside his mansion in Washington DC, 2320 S St. NW at noon on August 27, 2020.

We ask that you join us in solidarity, for Amazon workers and all exploited workers across the globe, to **DEMAND** that:

- 1. Appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) and sanitation supplies are provided at all times for all employees by the company. All employees who were terminated during the COVID-19 pandemic (retroactive to March 1, 2020) for refusing to work in unsafe conditions must be reinstated.
- 2. All employees receive a \$2 hourly increase hazard pay, 100% pay for unpaid time used, and sick pay to be paid out to *all* employees retroactively from March 1, 2020 until all facilities have zero new positive COVID-19 cases for four consecutive weeks.
- 3. Employees who test positive for COVID-19 be placed on paid leave at 100% pay until test results are confirmed negative and they are medically cleared by doctor to return to work. In addition, the facility where the employee works must be shut down,

- professionally sanitized, and remain closed for a minimum of 14 days. During this time, *all* impacted employees will also receive 100% pay.
- 4. Transparency be maintained through daily communication with all employees regarding confirmed positive COVID-19 cases at all facilities.
- 5. Next-of-kin or families of employees who lost their lives during the pandemic will receive \$200,000 directly from the company in addition to their life insurance policy.
- 6. Companies declare a stance of neutrality on unionization by immediately ending all efforts and campaigns that discourage unionization, in all aspects of the workplace, from hiring to training to policies across the board. Workers must be able to unionize freely without interference, obstruction, or intimidation -- directly or indirectly.
- 7. All hourly associates are paid a minimum starting wage of \$30 per hour. Monthly bonuses are given for productivity/sweat equity and these bonuses are not subject to a wage cap.
- 8. Employees are notified immediately of any logged feedback, write-ups, disciplinary warnings, and employee reviews. At that time, they must also be given an exact copy of the document being logged, either electronically or physically, to keep for their personal records.
- 9. Free child care and health care are provided by the company for all full-time employees. All full-time employees receive 1 hour lunches regardless of facility location.
- 10. All employees are made shareholders upon employment and receive annual investments with the company.

In addition to the demands above, we are also calling on legislators to implement a federal wealth tax on the top 3% of earners in the United States. This wealth tax should be used to support and invest in community enrichment such as universal child care, health care, housing, and quality education.