

**PLUMBERS AND GASFITTERS LOCAL UNION NO. 1**  
OF THE  
**UNITED ASSOCIATION OF JOURNEYMEN AND APPRENTICES OF THE PLUMBING  
AND PIPE FITTING INDUSTRY OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA**  
**NEW YORK CITY**



**MICHAEL APUZZO**  
*Business Manager*

**PAUL O'CONNOR**  
*Financial Secretary-Treasurer*

*Business Agent-At-Large*  
FREDDY DELLIGATTI

May 15, 2020

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*Organizers*  
GEORGE MALANDRAKIS  
LOUIS J. PASQUALE

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

This letter is to update you on the steps that Plumbers Local Union No. 1 is taking to prepare to **Re-Mobilize** back to work in the upcoming weeks. I have been appointed to the **New York City Building Trades Re-Mobilizing Committee** which is made up of Business Managers, Developers and General Contractors. We have had many conference calls over the last month discussing how to Re-Mobilize almost 100,000 Building Trades members back to work while still maintaining safety protocols and social distancing rules.

*President*  
TOMMY KINIRONS

*Vice President*  
ALAN PAWELSKY

*Recording Secretary*  
TIMOTHY J. SPELLMAN

As we are all aware, our everyday lifestyles will be changing one way or another after COVID-19 and so will the Construction Industry in NYC. Things will certainly look different going forward.

*Executive Board*  
MICHAEL ALOISI  
DOMINICK BRUNO  
CHRIS CONBOY, JR.  
PAUL COTTO

I have been working very closely with the Building Trades and its Affiliates on what the best practices should be upon returning to work. Local 1's top priority is the health and safety of our members and their families. Prior to Re-Mobilization, we want to make sure that certain safety protocols are put into place in order to make sure that everybody feels safe before returning to work and proper social distancing is strictly enforced.

*Finance Committee*  
ALBERT ESPOSITO  
MATTHEW GRIMES  
DAVID J. McINTOSH

The General Contractors and Sub-Contractors have agreed to put safety protocols in place prior to any member returning to any major construction project. The Building Trades and its Affiliates are working on a **Re-Mobilizing NYC Agreement** which will address Social Distancing Issues and Safety Protocols that are so important to our member's health and safety at work.

*Examining Board*  
PIOTR AKSAMITOWSKI  
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RAFAEL CRUZ  
ANDREW C. DONLEVY  
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MICHAEL J. REED

Local 1 has received reports that some jobs are scheduled to start remobilizing with a reduced work force and possibly starting up a 2nd shift per day in the weeks to follow. This would help alleviate some of the commuting issues and certainly help our members stay safer with less people on the job site at any given time.

*Inside Sentry*  
MICHAEL A. FUSCO

Local 1's top priority is to make sure that all our members remain healthy and stay safe at work.

Therefore, Local 1 and our Contractors have agreed to a thirty (30) day Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in order to comply with the General Contractors job site safety protocols and social distancing. The following three (3) items have been temporarily agreed to:

### **1. Staggered Starting Times:**

This will include staggered starting times for all Trades. This will help limit the amount of people on hoists and elevators, as we all know that is always a challenge on any vertical building. We believe this will be the best practice until this pandemic is reduced or a vaccination is available.

### **2. Thermal Scanning:**

All members entering any job site, will have to submit to thermal scanning before starting work. This means each person must have their temperature taken until further notice. All members must have the proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) that will be supplied by their employer.

### **3. Work Hours:**

We have agreed to five (5) eight (8) hour daytime shifts. We have also agreed to working four (4) ten (10) hour daytime shifts at straight time.

### **The following are updates on the Local Union level:**

- **Local 1 Monthly Membership Union Meeting**

At the present time, Local 1 is still abiding by Governor Cuomo's State of Emergency and working remotely until the ban is modified or lifted. Therefore, as per UA General President Mark McManus' letter dated March 23, 2020 with the approval from the UA General Executive Board, I am canceling the May and June Membership Meetings as I mentioned in my March 27, 2020 letter.

- **Plumbers Local Union No.1 Building Trades Contract Extension:**

At the present time, Local 1's Building Trades Contract expires on June 30, 2020. Due to the New York State of Emergency, Executive Order No. 202.6, that is still in place, Local 1 and the Association of Contracting Plumbers have both agreed to a three (3) month extension, extending the Contract's expiration date to September 30, 2020.

Therefore, all negotiation meetings have been postponed until July 2020.

- **401k Emergency Distributions:**

As of May 1, 2020, Local 1's Trustees have approved a \$25,000 distribution for emergency use. This will help any member who was unemployed during the peak of Governor Cuomo's "***State of Emergency***" mandating non-essential workers to "Shelter-In" which stopped over 90% of all construction projects throughout NYC. The CARES ACT will now allow members to take distributions from their 401k for a limited time with certain types of IRS tax benefits. See PIB or Prudential's websites for additional information. The next Prudential Webinar about our 401k Plan is scheduled for May 20, 2020.

***Local 1 highly recommends consulting your tax professional and checking with the NYS Unemployment Office prior to considering an Emergency Distribution.***

- **Paying Dues by using your Smart Phone:**

Local 1 will be sending out letters with instructions and temporary passwords on how to download the KMR App to pay dues by using your smart phone. There are different settings for iPhone and Android phones.

- **Local 1 Annual Family Picnic:**

Due to the Governor's Executive Order, this year's Annual Family Picnic has been cancelled. We hope to see you all at the 2021 Annual Family Picnic at Krucker's in Pomona, NY.

- **2020 United States Census:**

Every member should have received a postcard from the U.S. Census Bureau reminding everyone to fill out their "2020 Census". I would ask that every member take the time to complete, sign and return your 2020 Census filing. You can also visit their website at [www.2020census.gov](http://www.2020census.gov) or call 1-844-330-2020. This would help New York State and New York City with funding for future infrastructure projects.

- **Remember to Register-to-Vote:**

It is extremely important that each and every Local 1 member and their family members exercise their right to vote. The Democratic Presidential Primary has been reinstated for June 23, 2020, due to a court order. You can go to [www.usa.gov/register-to-vote](http://www.usa.gov/register-to-vote) to register online or you can download the National Mail Voter Registration Form, print, complete, sign and mail it in.

- **Work Outlook for the Near Future:**

During the *2008 Financial Crisis* otherwise known as the *Great Recession* many jobs came to a complete standstill and many new projects were either delayed for years or cancelled altogether.

The future of the Construction Industry and the way the economy will look after COVID-19 and the "State of Emergency" could possibly resemble the 2008 downturn with long term damaging affects in our industry throughout NYC and the Country.

At the present time Local 1's unemployment is at an all-time high, with over 1000 members out of work due COVID-19 and the Emergency ban. Although, we believe most of the jobs will start up again, our biggest concern are future projects. Industry Leaders have lost confidence and the money flow has slowed down for new projects due to the current state of the economy.

***Local 1 will continue to meet every challenge by working with our Contractors and the Construction Industry in order to pursue work opportunities for its members.***

In closing, I would ask that everybody take a "Moment of Silence" for those members and their families that were lost due to the Coronavirus. Local 1 has recorded 21 deaths since the start of the virus on March 1st, 2020. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers during their time of grieving.

Fraternally yours,



Michael Apuzzo  
Business Manager

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