



INTERNATIONAL LONGSHORE & WAREHOUSE UNION COAST LONGSHORE DIVISION

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MEMORANDUM

TO: ILWU Coast Longshore Division Locals
FROM: The Coast Committee
SUBJECT: **June 9, 2020 Stop Work Protest**
DATE: June 8, 2020

On May 25, 2020, George Floyd, who was handcuffed and lying face down on the street, was murdered by a Minneapolis police officer, who knelt on Mr. Floyd's neck for almost nine minutes while he begged for his life: "I can't breathe."

Since this senseless and reprehensible act, people have taken to the streets in over 100 cities in the United States and around the world to demonstrate against police brutality and systematic racism.

It's time for the ILWU, in keeping with our history of fighting for racial and social justice, to be heard. On Tuesday, June 9, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. the ILWU Coast Longshore Division will stop work for nine minutes in honor of Mr. Floyd, adding to the chorus of voices protesting police brutality and systematic racism.

Our responsibility in this moment runs deeper than usual because one part of the system that is protecting the officers involved in Mr. Floyd's death is a union, the Police Officers Federation of Minneapolis. The president of the Minneapolis police union has a history of racism and complaints of violence. He stands for the opposite of the Labor Movement, which is rooted in the fight for equality and justice.

Therefore, on June 9, when we stop work in honor of Mr. Floyd, we also do so in solidarity with the growing number of labor groups that are calling for the immediate resignation of the president of the Minneapolis police union. There is no place in the Labor Movement for a leader who defends the act of depravity that resulted in the death of Mr. Floyd.

The ILWU condemns all forms of racism, and we state in no uncertain terms that Black Lives Matter. We call on all elected officials in local, state, and the federal government to open their eyes and hearts and initiate real change to the current system, which institutionalizes the racism and police brutality that has victimized our country and our citizens for far too long.

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