HIGH RISK WORKERS

Approve a resolution directing the City Manager to establish a strategy for high-risk workers in order to prevent hospitalizations and fatalities related to COVID-19.

Item 38

CMs Casar, Harper-Madison, Kitchen, and Ellis

GOALS:

- PART 1: Help workers who have the greatest risk of being hospitalized or dying from COVID-19 stay home.
- <u>PART 2</u>: Educate workers of their rights and connect them to resources so workers feel safe getting tested, advocating for themselves, and staying home.

PART 1: High Risk Workers

Who are high risk workers? They are workers who:



(A) are older adults



(B) have underlying medical conditions or compromised immune systems



(C) are in a household with (A) or (B)

PART 1: High Risk Workers

Problem:

High risk workers are going back to public workplaces in response to economic and employment pressures.

This is a significant risk. It is, in many cases, against the Mayor's orders.

PART 1: High Risk Workers

Potential Solutions: The City could, at scale:

- Advocate to reassign workers to telework or other physically isolated work. When infeasible, then...
 - \$ Connect workers to financial assistance, such as unemployment or PUA.
- Connect workers to new, telework employment.
- \$ Provide City or non-profit assistance aimed at preventing a public health hazard.

PART 2: Worker Rights and Resources

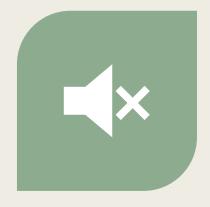
Problem: Workers feel pressure to:



Work while sick



Avoid testing



Stay silent about unsafe conditions

PART 2: Worker Rights and Resources

Example:

The City recently offered free COVID testing at targeted construction sites.

But <u>over 60%</u> of construction workers declined the tests. Many workers feared losing income if they tested positive.

PART 2: Worker Rights and Resources

Potential Solutions:



Help workers apply for new, federally required sick time & protect against retaliation



Explore providing worker support during testing and contact tracing



Resource Center: Know your rights and available resources