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.

• PART 2: 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 over 60% of construction workers declined the tests. Many workers feared losing income if they tested positive.
PART 2: Worker Rights and Resources

Potential Solutions:

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

2. Explore providing worker support during testing and contact tracing

3. Resource Center: Know your rights and available resources