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**NYC Clerical-Administrative Employees Local 1549, District Council 37, AFSCME, AFL-CIO**

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*A message from President Eddie Rodriguez and the Executive Board of Local 1549,*

Unfortunately, we have been plagued with a global health crisis: the Novel coronavirus (COVID 19). As the leadership of Local 1549, we know what our members are facing during this global pandemic.

This coronavirus has put lives at stake and we are especially concerned about the lives, health, and well being of our Local 1549 Brothers and Sisters. We want to let you know that we have been fighting hard to protect the rights of our members, many of whom are front line responders and essential workers, and who daily put themselves before all else to ensure the continued services from all City agencies. To our HHC, PCT/SPCT (911), 311 Operators, HRA, and DEP members that are essential workers we want to say THANK YOU for the job that you do each and every day for the public of New York City.

Due to the efforts of President Rodriguez and the Leadership of Local 1549 we also worked diligently behind the scenes with various agencies where our members work to meet the Governor and Mayor mandates that 100% non-essential government employees must work from home, the following city agencies' members are primarily working from home. PAA/SPAA, Law Department, Parks Department, Sanitation, MetroPlus, HRA, DEP, and all Mayoral Agencies.

Because of the persistent fight of Executive Director Henry Garrido, President Eddie Rodriguez, and the leadership of Local 1549, we ultimately convinced the City to agree to all members wearing a mask and gloves at their worksites. You must remember that you work for the City of New York and as your Local, we will always be here to protect your rights. Local 1549 was able to obtain 10,000 face-covering masks and 5,000 hand sanitizers and currently is distributing the masks and hand sanitizers throughout the city agencies that still have members working to help prevent the spread of the virus. The leadership made phone calls and in-person visits to some agencies to ensure proper, decisive, and expedient steps were being taken to protect our members and especially essential workers. We also have been on teleconference calls with the NYPD on the importance of members practicing social distancing at their worksites and testing temperatures for any signs of fever. Local 1549 leadership understands that the safety of our members on the frontline is a top priority. This pandemic is not only one of the major global health crises in modern times, we are all aware of the profound social and economic consequences that have resulted nationally and especially here in New York City. Because of this pandemic, we must follow the prevention protocols that are in place globally, nationally, and locally. Please wear your mask so it covers your nose and mouth, wear your gloves, and don't forget to wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use a hand sanitizer, and stay home if you're not feeling well. As always, remember to practice social distancing to help stop the spread of the virus.

We must not allow fear to prevent us from continuing to enjoy our everyday lifestyle in a safe and healthy manner. Let us all continue to pray for each other and for members and family members that we have lost due to the coronavirus. For updated information on the coronavirus please check the local 1549 website at [www.Local1549.com](http://www.Local1549.com).

All of God's Blessings to you and your family.

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