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April 7, 2020

Mayor Sam Liccardo  
San Jose City Hall  
200 East Santa Clara Street  
San Jose, CA 95113

Dear Mayor Liccardo and Members of the City Council,

I am writing in support of Councilmember Raul Perez's memorandum designating food distribution workers in San Jose as emergency workers. Grocery store employees provide an essential service to City residents, and they are a critical part of the public health response to COVID-19. By performing these critical functions for all of us, they put themselves and their families at greater risk of contracting the virus.

As you know, employees who are designated as emergency workers qualify for certain services, such as childcare. Since a majority of our food distribution employees are supporting families, these workers need the services that come with an emergency worker designation. Their role in dealing with the COVID-19 crisis certainly justifies treating them as emergency workers, and I respectfully request that you designate them as such.

Please let me know whether more information, particularly information from the front lines of food distribution services would be helpful. Thank you in advance for your consideration of my request.

In Solidarity,

Ben Field,  
Executive Officer

