



Statement by Louis Mark Carotenuto, President UFCW Local 2013;

Good afternoon and thank you to everyone for coming out today; to all of our members; the Elected Officials; the folks from the LI Federation of Labor; and the various Community Organizations.

We are here today in support of our UFCW Local 2013 Members who work for Quality King. We are currently in contract negotiations with a Family owned company, that employs a largely Latino Immigrant workforce. *Quality King is a \$3 Billion dollar corporation, one of the largest Private employers in the country; owned & operated by one of the top 200 Wealthiest Families in the country.*

That success as a corporation has been achieved in large-part on the backs of these hardworking people, who are mostly only paid minimum wage, that desire and deserve a Living Wage with Good Benefits and *as important as anything else, they deserve to be treated with Dignity & Respect.*

- However, rather than valuing its dedicated workforce for its contributions towards making QK successful and treating the workers fairly, they choose instead to keep them down; offering low wages and difficult working conditions that are viewed by the workers as abusive; demeaning; and unsafe.
- They routinely yell at workers in a demeaning manner over the facility loudspeakers; working them in areas with less than optimal ventilation or ability for Social Distancing during a Global Pandemic.
- Instead of valuing the workforce, they choose to have company Representatives argue endlessly to deny the addition of a simple but meaningful Respect & Dignity Clause in the workers contract.
- Instead of negotiating to pay these workers a “*livable wage*”, they’d rather spend money that could benefit these hardworking members on

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Union-busting tactics, like firing workers who step-up to participate in seeking a decent and fair Collective Bargaining Agreement.

- During the height of the COVID 19 Pandemic, Quality King chose to more than double the price of certain disinfectant products in order to MAXIMIZE their Profits – which is now being investigated by the NYS AG’s office for price-gouging – all while paying the majority of its *frontline workforce* Minimum Wage.
- Even more disturbing, QK’s CEO is quoted as saying the reason for the increased cost was to cover the cost of added safety measures for the workforce as a result of COVID – yet there were over 30 cases of COVID reported by workers and when they raised concerns to supervisors, they were told “it’s all in their heads – go back to work”.
- Instead of taking the safety concerns of a Global Pandemic seriously and taking proper precautions of professional cleaning, they gave workers cans of this high-priced disinfectant and told them to clean up after yourselves; not the attitude or words of an employer that values its frontline workforce!

We call on Quality King and the Nussdorf Family to do the right thing for these dedicated frontline workers who have consistently delivered for you and kept your business running during a Global Pandemic. It’s time for you to bargain in good faith and to recognize their value and finally reward them with a FAIR & Just Contract!

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