

March 28, 2013

Mr. Alireza Mahdavi
American Logistics International
24700 Main Street
Carson, CA 90745

Re: My support for driver organizing

Dear Mr. Mahdavi:

I am writing to you with a matter of mutual concern. As a Carson Councilmember, I wish to see our city have safe and healthy workers, a clean environment, safe streets, and businesses that are thriving, successful and responsible. I ask you to join me in partnership to achieve this vision.

Recently I met with drivers who work for American Logistics, and they raised a number of issues that I find extremely concerning. They told me that they have recently joined together to exercise their rights to form a union and bargain collectively. Drivers seek to improve their conditions at the workplace, and to make your company – their company – a better and more successful place for all stakeholders, workers and management alike. I stand in support of these drivers as they organize with the Teamsters.

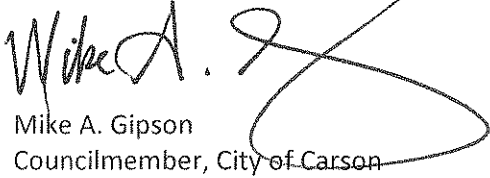
I am disturbed by the account that I heard of safety problems at American Logistics. Unsafe equipment and improper safety practices threaten not only the health and welfare of port truck drivers, but also all citizens of Carson. Drivers at your company should also achieve the same working standards as other unionized drivers at the port have secured. Any retaliatory actions taken against drivers for reporting safety problems – or for exercising their protected rights to engage in collective action – are wholly unacceptable. When management opposes workers' rights, labor disputes often follow. Such disputes are not in the interest of the company, of workers, or of our city. I wish to see fair and harmonious labor relations, and I am sure that you do as well.

I call upon you to establish a fair process along with your workers for expeditiously resolving this situation. I further call upon you to remain neutral as your drivers organize. Please avoid contentious and divisive practices such as procedural delays, the hiring of outside "labor relations experts," or retaliation against workers.

I appreciate the relationship that your company has recently established with the City of Carson. I truly wish to see American Logistics grow, thrive and succeed. I believe such success is possible for the company, its workers, its management and its investors. I believe that such success will require the company to partner with its workers, rather than oppose them.

Please act promptly to resolve this situation. Let me know if I can be helpful in any way. I look forward to following up with you, and I look forward to many years of success for American Logistics, its workers, and the City of Carson, all acting in good faith and in partnership.

Sincerely,


Mike A. Gipson
Councilmember, City of Carson

cc: Mayor Jim Dear, City of Carson
Mayor Pro Tem Elito M. Santarina, City of Carson
Councilmember Lula Davis-Holmes, City of Carson
Councilmember Albert Robles, City of Carson
Maria Elena Durazo, Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO