

UNITED BROTHERHOOD OF CARPENTERS AND JOINERS OF AMERICA

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STATEMENT FROM NYCDCC EXECUTIVE SECRETARY-TREASURER JOSEPH A. GEIGER URGING LEADERS TO DEFINE ESSENTIAL CONSTRUCTION DURING COVID-19 CRISIS

The world is facing an unprecedented health pandemic and the greater New York City area has become the epicenter. I am thankful for Governor Cuomo and his entire Administration's tireless efforts to communicate the facts, enact measures that keep families safe and flatten the curve. Most New York businesses have been shut down to stem the spread of the virus, but members of the New York City District Council of Carpenters have continued going to work – executing emergency repairs, helping the state build out more healthcare capacity and working on essential public work projects. This work should continue. Today, however, all construction is deemed essential and many members are also working on projects that are not critical. We urge our elected leaders to significantly narrow the definition of what construction is considered essential in the city during this crisis. Only construction work that is truly essential should continue. My members' lives are at stake and I will do everything in my power to ensure their health is prioritized.