



October 15, 2019

Chairman Steve Guttman
UOVO
Queens Plaza, 41-54 22nd Street
Long Island City, NY 11101

Dear Chairman Guttman:

As a group of elected officials who represent districts where both your business and your customers are located, and who collectively have spent years working on behalf of both the working families and the cultural institutions that make our city great, we want to implore you and your company to immediately cease and desist your campaign of intimidation and misinformation against your employees. The decision of your art handlers and related workers to organize and affiliate with Teamsters Local 814 should be theirs and theirs alone. It is anathema to the values of New York City, and to the art world where your company exists on a daily basis, to harass and intimidate workers who are exercising their federal rights to organize for a better life and legal voice on the job.

In New York City, and at the many publicly-funded and unionized institutions where UOVO does business, the rights of workers are respected and kept in the highest regard. Your employees -- if you truly respect their rights to choose union representation as your company claimed in the recent *Daily News* article -- deserve nothing less than you to recognize their union and bargain with them in good faith.

Uovo should not be subjecting workers to repeated mandatory "information sessions" with so-called "educators." Uovo should not be mailing packets of disinformation to their homes. And Uovo should definitely not be dispatching "consultants" to ride in trucks with drivers to pressure them while they are behind the wheel -- this aggressive tactic raises all kinds of issues: from the public safety risks of having workers operate heavy duty vehicles while under stress to insurance compliance and client-confidentiality. And lastly, Uovo should also not be threatening to deliberately drag out bargaining after the workers' union is certified via election. These are all bad faith tactics that have no place in the art world and no place in New York City.

We urge you to drop the anti-union campaign immediately and recognize your workers' union. If UOVO persists in these aggressive and coercive tactics and refuses to recognize the union, we believe the next steps are for this anti-worker behavior to be exposed to the rest of the art world, and the city at large, and for elected officials to begin an investigation of how city funding, through the EDC but also through publicly-funded museums that do business with Uovo, can be cut off from companies like yours who don't respect their workers federally-protected rights to organize.

Signed,



State Senator Julia Salazar



Council Speaker Corey Johnson



Council Member Keith Powers



Council Member Antonio Reynoso



Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer



Council Member Ben Kallos

CC: Steve Novenstein, UOVO CEO
CC: James Patchett, EDC President & CEO