

**REPORT TO ALL MEMBERS  
OF THE INTERNATIONAL  
BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS**

FROM: The Independent Disciplinary Officers

Hon. Barbara S. Jones  
Hon. Joseph E. diGenova

DATED: May 20, 2020

**I. INTRODUCTION**

The following is Magazine Report 2 of the Independent Disciplinary Officers ("IDO") for 2020 regarding activities from March 7, 2020 through May 20, 2020, conducted pursuant to the Final Agreement and Order of February 17, 2015.

**II. STATUS OF OPERATIONS**

The IDO wish to assure the membership that despite the ongoing Coronavirus crisis, the officers continue to operate to effectuate the purposes of the Final Order. The IIO office remains open under alternative staffing procedures designed to protect the IIO staff as well as the community at large, consistent with applicable government regulations and health department recommendations. Investigators continue to receive referrals from members throughout the country, and are pursuing those allegations both vigorously and safely. Unfortunately, it is the experience of the IIO and his staff of career

Investigators that times of unusual crisis are often times of unusual opportunity for those inclined toward waste, fraud, and abuse. The IIO is particularly vigilant during this time and intends to seek the harshest disciplinary measures against those who would exploit current situation for improper personal gain.

### **III. PROGRESS OF EXISTING MATTERS**

#### **A. International Vice President Rome Aloise**

On February 14, 2020, the IIO issued a report to the IBT General Executive Board recommending that a charge be filed against Rome Aloise ("Aloise"), International Vice President, President of Joint Council 7, and Secretary Treasurer and principal officer of Local 853 for bringing reproach upon the IBT and violating his membership oath by: knowingly harming a fellow member, interfering with and inducing others to interfere with the performance of the Union's legal obligations, unreasonably failing to cooperate fully with a proceeding of the IRO, retaliating and threatening to retaliate against members for exercising rights under the IBT Constitution, and committing an act of racketeering; all in violation of IBT Const., Article II, Section 2 (a); IBT Const., Art. XIX, Sections 7 (b) (2), (5), (10), and (11); IBT Const., Art. XIX, Sec. 14 (a); and 18 U.S.C. §875 (d).

The IIO's Report alleged that Aloise used his purported influence over IBT entities in California to threaten financial

harm to a charitable organization, Instituto Laboral de La Raza ("La Raza"), in order to interfere in that organization's internal affairs to the detriment of a fellow member. The IIO further alleged that, notwithstanding the acquiescence of the La Raza board to his demands, Aloise's actions did in fact cause financial harm to La Raza and harmed his fellow member. The IIO further alleged Aloise's actions were made in retaliation for the fellow member's good-faith efforts to comply with an Order of the IRO.

The IIO also alleged that Aloise engaged in a pattern of misconduct and utter contempt designed to circumvent the restrictions placed upon him by the IRO on December 22, 2017, as restated on January 19, 2018 and November 1, 2019. The IIO further alleged that, during the period of his suspension, Aloise threatened and publicly labeled fellow Teamsters as "rats" or "snitches," based upon his belief that they were cooperating with an IIO investigation and/or in retaliation for their good-faith attempts to comply with the IRO's December 22, 2017 Order.

On February 14, 2020, the IIO delivered to the General Executive Board of the IBT his Report outlining the foregoing allegations, supported by 89 exhibits comprising 1,771 pages of documents. On February 25, 2020, the General President adopted and filed the charges. Pursuant to Paragraph 32 of the Final

Order, within 90 days of the IIO's referral (or by Thursday, May 14, 2020), the General Executive Board was required to file with the IRO written findings setting forth the specific actions taken and the reason for such actions.

On March 9, 2020, the IBT appointed three members of the General Executive Board to serve as the Hearing Panel pursuant to IBT Constitution Article XIX. On March 24, 2020, the Hearing Panel informed Aloise that the ongoing Coronavirus crisis made it impossible to proceed with a hearing on Aloise's preferred dates (April 14-16, 2020). The Panel directed Aloise's attorneys, by April 23, 2020, to present it with written arguments, together with the sworn declarations of any favorable witnesses and any documents or exhibits he might wish to present in his defense. The Panel further directed counsel for the IBT to present argument concerning the need for a further evidentiary hearing within 14 days of receipt of Aloise's submission.

On April 7, 2020, citing the difficulties in obtaining the necessary declarations and evidence occasioned by the Coronavirus crisis, Aloise requested an extension of the deadline for his submission to the panel until May 22, 2020.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> This report went to press on May 20, 2020. In light of the rapidly evolving situation and unpredictable nature of delays caused by Coronavirus-related shutdown orders, the May 22 deadline may no longer be accurate as of publication.

The Panel conditionally granted Aloise's requested extension, however because the proposed extension would exceed the 90 day deadline for the General Executive Board's final action set by Paragraph 32 of the Final Order, the IBT sought from the IRO a 90 day extension of that deadline, or until August 17, 2020. The IRO, finding "good cause" for the extension within the meaning of Paragraph 32, granted the proposed extension on April 9, 2020.

**B. Former Local 683 Principal Officer Todd Mendez**

On March 6, 2019, the IIO issued a report to the IBT General President recommending that a charge be filed against Todd Mendez ("Mendez"), former principal officer of Local 683 (El Cajon, CA) for bringing reproach upon the IBT in violation of Article II, Section 2 (a) and Article XIX, Sections 7(b)(1) and (2) and Section (14)(a) of the IBT Constitution, through failing to reasonably cooperate with the IIO by intentionally testifying falsely during his IIO sworn examination on February 2, 2017.

The IIO's Report alleged that Mendez testified falsely during his IIO sworn examination concerning a document he distributed and caused Board members to sign, purportedly subjecting them to financial penalty for disclosing the terms of a settlement agreement for a lawsuit brought by a former

employee against the Local and Mendez personally alleging sexual harassment and other causes of action.

On March 12, 2019, General President Hoffa adopted and filed the charges. On April 8, 2019, counsel submitted to the IRO a proposed affidavit and settlement disposing of the charges. In light of ongoing discussions between the parties with regard to the disposition, the IRO is currently reviewing the proposed settlement.

#### **IV. ONGOING INVESTIGATIONS**

The IIO is currently conducting a number of investigations throughout the country. In the time period of this report, the IIO has received and processed approximately **{NUMBER}** hotline calls reporting alleged improprieties.

The IDO do not comment on ongoing investigations or identify areas or conduct under investigation until a formal recommendation of charges is served upon the IBT pursuant to the Final Order.

#### **IV. TOLL-FREE HOTLINE**

Activities which should be reported for investigation include, but are not limited to, association with organized crime, corruption, racketeering, embezzlement, extortion, assault, or failure to investigate any of these.

To ensure that all calls are treated confidentially, the system which records hotline calls is located in a

secure area on a dedicated line accessed only by an Investigator. Please continue to use the toll-free hotline to report improprieties that fall within IIO jurisdiction by calling 1-800-CALL-472 (800-225-5472).

## **V. CONCLUSION**

The task of the IDO is to ensure that the goals of the Final Agreement and Order are fulfilled. In doing so, it is our desire to keep the IBT membership fully informed about our activities through these reports. If you have any information concerning allegations of wrongdoing or corruption, you may call the toll-free hotline number, or write to the Independent Investigations Officer Hon. Joseph E. diGenova for all investigations at the IIO office address listed above.