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Legal Team in *Palmer v. Amazon* Responds to Reports on “Time Off Task” Policy

In response to the news that Amazon will no longer punish workers for spending time washing their hands or cleaning their work stations during the pandemic, the legal team in *Palmer v. Amazon* (Make the Road New York, Public Justice, Towards Justice, and Terrell Marshall Law Group) made this statement:

“Amazon informing warehouse workers for the first time that, as a matter of nationwide corporate policy, it will not punish them for spending time washing their hands or cleaning their work stations during the pandemic is a big victory for public health. It is also the direct result of brave action taken by JFK8 warehouse workers through the civil justice system on behalf of themselves, their families, and the communities in which they live. As long as Amazon keeps its adjusted work-rate and Time off Task policies in place, Amazon workers across the country – including the areas which are now seeing their highest coronavirus case load yet, such as Texas and Florida – will have the peace of mind that they no longer need to rush into crowded bathrooms to wash their hands, nor will they need to fear that they don't have time to disinfect their work stations.

Though these important developments around work-rate and TOT have made it unnecessary to pursue a motion for emergency injunctive relief at this time, we continue to have serious factual disputes as to whether Amazon's method of contact tracing is adequate to stop the spread of COVID, and whether Amazon's paid leave policies are adequate to reduce the spread of COVID, among other disputes. Our clients will continue their fight in this case to ensure that Amazon is held accountable to federal, state, and local public health standards requiring it to maintain workplace policies that empower workers to take care of their health, and the health of their colleagues and the places they live.”