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April 8, 2020

Via Email ([officeofthemayor@shelbycountyttn.gov](mailto:officeofthemayor@shelbycountyttn.gov)) and U.S. Mail

Honorable Mayor Lee Harris  
160 N. Main, 11th Floor  
Memphis, TN 38103

Dear Mayor Harris,

The 214 member companies of the Associated Builders & Contractors of West Tennessee (“ABC”) wanted to reach out to you and share the actions that ABC and its commercial construction members have been taking to combat the spread of the COVID-19 while continuing to build the future of Memphis and Shelby County and its important critical infrastructure. As you know, our members are currently constructing healthcare, energy, warehousing and major public works projects, among many other projects that are essential to the health and economic well-being of our citizens. We are doing our part to maintain safe working conditions while also supporting critical elements of our economy.

At this point, ABC is proud to say that we are not aware of any worker testing positive for Covid-19 on a construction site in Shelby County. We believe this is in no small measure due to the combined efforts of all construction industry partners to work safer, and the inherent ability to keep separation on construction work sites. Many construction industry jobs are outside, which is less conducive to the spread of the virus. Even when working inside a building, the air is typically not recycled air from a HVAC unit like in an office environment. Instead the sites are usually open with natural air following throughout the work site. Construction projects allow the ability to place people at different points on the exterior and interior of the building and allocate considerable distance and square footage between all of them. For that reason alone, construction projects are a very low risk industry.

Additionally, to the extent practical, all ABC Members are encouraged to follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines. Member companies are promoting frequent hand washing on job sites with sites being equipped, where possible, with hand washing stations. Companies are supplying their employees with sanitizers and hand soap to use when hand washing stations are not available or a restroom with running water is not available.

Companies are being smarter in planning and staging operations to minimize the number of employees having to interact on a particular job function. Large group meetings on job sites

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have been discontinued, and the contractors are meeting via conference call or video chat. ABC members are also practicing social distancing when working in the office and in the field. Some of the other actions being taken by member companies include: encouraging workers to stay at home when sick or if someone within their household is sick; discouraging employees from using other workers cell phones, radios, laptop computers and tools; frequent disinfecting of surfaces, equipment, and other elements of the work environment, particularly those frequently touched surfaces like door handles and equipment; limiting the number of employees riding hoists; and encouraging employees to wear face coverings when they cannot maintain six feet of social distance in work areas or on projects. Individuals on work sites are encouraged to fashion face coverings from household items or common materials, such as clean T-shirts or other clean cloth that can cover the nose and mouth area if a mask is unavailable.

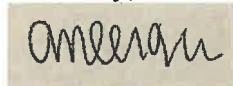
Other measures that are currently being done by some ABC members on more substantial projects across the City of Memphis and Shelby County include temperature scanning at the beginning of the workday and asking questions of workers to screen for potential COVID-19 signs to prevent exposure. These measures are being taken on job sites throughout Memphis and Shelby County to limit exposure to our workers and the public as ABC members continue to deliver essential work in our community.

ABC is also conducting specific webinars and weekly town hall meetings so that members can learn from each other, a primary topic is our workers and what we can do to further protect them during this time.

We believe these steps have, and will, continue to limit employee exposure to the Coronavirus. ABC and its members look forward to continuing to move Memphis and Shelby County forward during these unprecedented times.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and your excellent leadership of our city.

Sincerely,



Amber Harris, President  
Associated Builders & Contractors of West Tennessee



Rick Bennett, General Counsel  
Associated Builders & Contractors of West Tennessee