



PRESS RELEASE

DC Superior Court Judge Rules Mayor's Vaccine Mandate Unlawful

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Gregg Pemberton, Chairman

On August 25, 2022, DC Superior Court Judge Maurice Ross issued an Order ruling that the Mayor's COVID-19 mandate that applies to all District employees is illegal. In a 17-page decision, Judge Ross addressed each of the Mayor's legal arguments to attempt to justify the vaccine mandate and ruled that *"the Mayor lacks legal authority to impose a vaccine mandate"* and that *"our system does not permit the Mayor to act unlawfully."*

Judge Ross Ordered that the Mayor is *"permanently enjoined from implementing, imposing, and/or enforcing the COVID-19 vaccine mandate,"* and he further Ordered that *"all disciplinary actions initiated, proposed, or taken pursuant to the COVID-19 vaccine mandate shall immediately cease and be dismissed, with full reimbursement to be provided to all FOP members for any loss of benefits, pay, or rights and all related disciplinary proceedings to be expunged from their records."*

Chairman Gregg Pemberton stated, "This is a significant victory for our Union that protects the rights of our members and ensures that they will no longer be forced to receive the COVID-19 vaccine against their will and will no longer be subjected to discipline for deciding not to receive the vaccine." The Chairman went on to state, "This has been a long and unnecessary fight. Had the Mayor just engaged the Union in good faith bargaining, we could have reached a reasonable compromise that protected everyone's interests. Nonetheless, we are pleased that Judge Ross agreed with our arguments and issued this ruling. Now, all of our members can go back to doing the necessary work of trying to protect our communities from crime and violence without unlawful threats of discipline and termination."

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