



## NEWS FROM **Teamsters Local 70**

P.O. Box 2270 Oakland, CA 94621  
(510) 569-9317 FAX (510) 569-1906

For Immediate Release  
September 3, 2010

Contact:  
Lou Marchetti, (xxx) xxx-xxxx

### **WORKERS AT CALIFORNIA MEDICAL MARIJUANA COMPANY JOIN TEAMSTERS**

#### *Teamsters Vote Overwhelmingly to Ratify Strong New Contract*

(OAKLAND) — Workers at a California medical marijuana company have voted overwhelmingly to ratify their first-ever contract. The 38 workers are now represented by Teamsters Local 70. Medical marijuana is legal in California.

The workers, employed by Marjyn Investments in Oakland, are trimmers, gardeners and cloners. Cloners clone different strains of marijuana, depending on its medical needs, said Lou Marchetti, the business agent for Local 70 who organized the workers and negotiated the contract. Marjyn Investments grows marijuana to be used by cancer patients and people with HIV.

Rome Aloise, President of Joint Council 7 and Western Region Vice President, praised the work of Local 70.

"The Local was approached by these workers to organize and Local 70 accomplished this goal very quickly," Aloise said. "The Teamsters will provide these workers with the best representation possible."

Marty Frates, Local 70 Secretary-Treasurer, credited Marchetti for obtaining a recognition agreement with the company, enabling the workers to obtain a contract very quickly.

"These workers are highly educated and dedicated to helping people with very serious illnesses," Frates said. "Lou was able to negotiate for them a very good first contract."

Under the two-year contract, the company will pay for the workers' health care costs. The workers will receive pensions under the Western Conference of Pensions Fund, and their wages, currently at \$18 an hour, will increase to \$25.75 an hour within 15 months. They also get 10 paid holidays and 60 hours of personal time per year.

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"The company expects to expand and hopes to have about 150 employees, which we will then organize," Marchetti said. "Never in my wildest dreams did I think I would ever organize medical marijuana growers, but this is an expanding industry in California and we plan on organizing these workers."

Founded in 1903, the International Brotherhood of Teamsters represents more than 1.4 million hardworking men and women in the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico.