



STATE OF INDIANA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
State House, Second Floor
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Eric J. Holcomb
Governor

November 29, 2019

CEASE & DESIST LETTER

Mr. Ronnie Ramos, Executive Editor
IndyStar
130 S. Meridian Street
Indianapolis, IN 46225
Email: Ronnie.ramos@indystar.com

Dear Mr. Ramos:

On behalf of Governor Eric J. Holcomb, we hereby demand that you cease and desist from publishing the following articles as currently written and take immediate steps to retract them. The articles in question are entitled: *Crippled backs, a crushing death: Investigation reveals cost of Amazon Prime for workers* and *Indiana manipulated report on Amazon worker's death to lure HQ2, investigation says*.

This office has made a similar demand of the organization Reveal and its reporter Will Evans, from which these articles originated. Enclosed is a copy of the letter that was sent to them earlier today.

This demand is being made due to the serious inaccuracies and falsehoods contained in these articles. The allegations about Governor Holcomb are completely and utterly false. The articles rely upon a source, Mr. John Stallone (an IOSHA Inspector), who isn't credible.

Your organization was the first to publish the articles in Indiana. Even a cursory review of the articles before publishing them should have raised red flags and concerns on your part, for the reasons explained in the enclosed letter to Reveal and its reporter Will Evans.

In light of the foregoing, the public has a right to know how your organization makes decisions about publishing articles by third parties like Reveal and its reporter Will Evans. Do you simply accept whatever someone sends you, or is there some review and screening process? If there is some type of process, how does it work and where is the line between what you will publish and what you won't?

These articles seek to unjustifiably and inexcusably harm the good name and reputation of Governor Holcomb. But more than that, if these serious inaccuracies and falsehoods are not immediately corrected, they represent a threat to the positive business climate that has been created in our State over the years through the commitment, hard work and dedication

of so many, including our citizens, business community, state employees and elected officials. That should not be allowed to happen. You must cease and desist from publishing the articles as currently written and take immediate steps to retract them.

Accordingly, we hereby demand your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JRH' or similar initials, written in a cursive style.

Joseph R. Heerens
General Counsel

Enclosure

cc: Gannett Corporate Headquarters
7950 Jones Branch Drive
McLean, Virginia 22107