

**Sister Rosalie A. Carven, CSJ
Our Lady of Grace Convent
700 Albin Avenue
West Babylon, NY 11704**

July 25, 2017

Ms. Rebecca Philbert, CEO
Best Market
One Lexington Avenue
Bethpage, NY 11714

Dear Ms. Philbert:

I write to tell you of a social concern I have regarding the employment practices of Best Market. I do so as a person who wears many hats. I am a Sister of St. Joseph whose Catholic community serves the people of Long Island and collaborates with other faith communities committed to the common good of the neighbors we live with. I am a person retired from years of work and I know that labor not only supports one's personal livelihood but also contributes to our broader economy. I am a shopper, a consumer of grocery products and a guardian of the limited dollars available to put food on our table.

I am sure you are aware of a citizen's campaign that aims to improve your company. Best Market is short of "best" in a number of ways. You operate two stores in my community (West Babylon), both in prime locations, and also one in nearby Farmingdale. Fortunately, the people in these neighborhoods don't live in so-called "food deserts" and Best Market has played a part in keeping supermarkets there. But the cost of your doing business is falling on the backs of the employees you hire and/or rehired from the supermarkets you took over. Best Market policies are not fair to workers who once had affordable health benefits, but now have excessive premiums; workers who once had sustainable living wages and hours had them cut back; and workers have daily work schedules with inconsistent hours.

#dobetterBestMarket is the intent of the campaign. You can keep your attractive properties and logo but change what goes on inside the stores: restore a guaranteed living wage, work day and work schedule and help employees afford to live in their own communities, contribute to the prosperity of their neighborhoods, create a future for their children, and look forward to a secure retirement. Attention to this campaign can show Best Market owners, managers and "team" members the way to give up the "worst" practices in the industry.

Myself and several other persons in the faith and civic community in the Farmingdale area visited that store last week to discuss these goals with the store manager. We did not have a great experience of "customer service." According to one employee, the manager was not in the store, which proved to be an untruth. Another employee was forthcoming that the manager was on site and paged him for us. Given his total disinterest in paying any attention to us, he acted in a curt and abrupt manner. I know that efforts to speak to store managers will continue to be a campaign action. We think it would be in the "best" interest of Best Market to give members of the campaign a courteous welcome to a conversation at both local and corporate levels.

Sincerely,

Sister Rosalie A. Carven, CSJ