

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Neighborhood Industries Official Statement on Warehouse Fire

(Fresno, CA) – On the evening of June 26, 2021, Neighborhood Industries (NI) officials noticed a billowing cloud of smoke and were notified of a fire at its warehouse facility (240 N. Thorne, Fresno, CA 93706). Fresno Fire Department responded to the blaze as the building was fully engulfed in flames.

“I was really at a loss for words as I approached the area and saw our building completely up in flames,” said Anthony Armour, CEO of Neighborhood Industries. “It was a relief to see Fresno City and, shortly after, Fresno County Firefighters on-scene when I arrived.”

NI owns and operates local businesses to employ individuals in neighborhoods of concentrated poverty, who may be facing barriers to regular employment. These businesses include Neighborhood Thrift, a thrift store, and Blkmktplc., a vintage boutique, as well as Neighborhood Recycling, an electronic and textile-recycling operation. Over the past 13 years, NI has helped hundreds of people find gainful employment through their workforce training program. NI takes a personal approach to each person willing to work for a paycheck to support themselves, their families, and their communities.

This warehouse was used as a storage and distribution center for its retail and wholesale businesses, primarily Neighborhood Thrift, located in the Tower District. The facility also served as an employment and job training center for 15 employees within the organization's workforce development program.

“The Warehouse is the first stop for all of the items donated to us, as well as items that we collect for recycling throughout the valley,” said Armour. “It contains mainly clothing and textiles, along with paper, plastic, and metals. In addition, our trucks and forklifts were stored there, along with the necessary fuel to power them. There were no other hazardous materials onsite.”

At this time Fire Investigators are working to determine the cause of the fire, and have not reported any injuries from the fire.

“At times like these, it's extremely important to count our blessings. We are thankful that the Fire Departments responded so quickly and grateful that nobody was at the facility and at risk of injury when the fire started,” said Armour. “We're going to carry that positive mindset as we work to recover from this setback, and remain committed to fighting for the jobs of the 15 employees directly impacted by this fire, as well as the 30 employees indirectly impacted throughout our organization.”

This fire directly impacts the employees that worked in the warehouse, and resulted in an estimated \$300k loss for Neighborhood Industries.



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Founded in 2008 in Fresno, California, Neighborhood Industries exists to reveal value in people so they can be positive contributors in their homes and neighborhoods. Neighborhood carries out this work at its social enterprises, creating employment training and job opportunities for people facing barriers to employment. Over the course of its 13 years of operation, Neighborhood has established itself as a local and regional leader in workforce development, social enterprise, and neighborhood enrichment, one equitable transaction at a time.