STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. — A Staten Island-founded union representing workers at one of the world’s largest tech companies announced Tuesday that it would launch a new program to help workers navigate their on-duty injury claims.
The Amazon Labor Union (ALU) retained a Long Island law firm to help implement a workers compensation program at Bloomfield’s JFK8 facility, where workers became the first Amazon employees in the U.S. to successfully organize last year.

McIntyre, Donohue, Accardi, Salmonson & Riordan will help the ALU, led by President Christian Smalls, implement the program that they say will help workers be aware of their rights, get accurate medical evaluations, and address enforcement concerns.

“Many of our members at JFK8 who were injured while performing their job duties are currently working with injuries,” Smalls said. “Many are unaware that they can file a comp claim and be compensated for their injuries. It’s important for those working in Amazon facilities to know that their union and its lawyers has their back. Today, we turn the page and ensure our members at JFK8 will get the treatment they need and know their rights.”

Spokespersons for Amazon did not return a request for comment by the time of publication, but the company has yet to recognize the union after it won its election in April by a 2,654 to 2,131 margin.

Amazon has made a series of legal challenges against the union, but have thus-far been unsuccessful — including in September, when a federal hearing officer recommended against Amazon’s push to overturn the election.
The start of the successful union push came at the height of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic when workers walked off the job due to what they described as unsafe conditions. Improving safety has been one of the union’s main promises to workers.

“Across the country Amazon has reported tens of thousands of serious injuries each and every year where workers are hurt so badly they can’t work," Smalls said. “It is a new year, and as president of ALU, I am making this a top priority to get a handle on workplace injuries and ensure ALU members who are injured on the job are filing workers’ compensation claims.”

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