



## A&P Workers Continue to Stick Together

UFCW local unions representing workers at the struggling A&P supermarket chain in the Northeast are sticking together to protect good jobs in their communities. Through representation in court, the UFCW has been able to advocate for A&P workers as the court supervises the reorganization of the company's finances. The UFCW also holds a seat on the creditors committee. The goal in this process is for A&P to emerge from this healthy enough that members can continue to serve customers in as many communities as possible.

The process has shown, however, that A&P would like to change everything in the union contract, under the guise of bankruptcy reorganization. Local unions are currently obtaining information from the company and A&P has shown that it views all economic contract provisions as up for negotiation. Even worse, it views non-economic provisions about transfers, schedules, hours, and classifications as potential items to be negotiated away.

UFCW local unions will not let this happen. There is no economic need for these kinds of drastic cuts to the union contract. While some changes to the contracts may happen, by standing strong together, UFCW can keep those changes to the minimum of what is actually necessary.

UFCW local unions in Regions 1 and 2 will continue their coordinated work to protect UFCW members throughout the A&P chain. **OP**

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Grocery Workers as  
They Stand Up For Good Jobs!  
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## Target Accused of Unfair Labor Practices

Despite the growing attention of the general public and frustration from community and labor groups, Target continues to show a lack of respect for its workers and their right to a fair, democratic process and the freedom to choose union representation.



UFCW Local 1500 has filed over a dozen unfair labor practice charges alleging that Target illegally intimidated workers and engaged in illegal actions at its Valley Stream, Long Island, store since the workers began their organizing activities several months ago. In one instance, managers "implicitly threatened" that the store would close if they supported the union, the filing alleges. In another case, it claims a supervisor threatened to fire employees if they spoke about the union.

The company has also been accused of preventing workers from discussing their employment on social networking sites, and workers have also been interrogated about their union activity and say they have been told that activity was under surveillance.

If the workers vote to join UFCW Local 1500, the Valley Stream store would be the first Target in the country to be unionized.

The campaign in Valley Stream is part of a broader effort to organize workers at all 27 Target stores in the metropolitan area, including 10 in New York City. The union's focus has been on the Long Island store, where workers approached Local 1500 several months ago complaining about low wages and too few hours.

Since then, workers say management has waged an aggressive campaign to get them to vote against the union. Sonia Williams, a 53-year-old overnight clerk who has worked at the store for nine years, said she was called



into a meeting with a manager who told her she had to stop talking to coworkers about the union.

"She said, 'It's been brought to our attention you've been soliciting team members,'" Ms. Williams recalled. "Why is it OK for managers to talk to us and tell us to vote no, and I can't tell anybody to vote yes?"

Ms. Williams said that workers are given a new piece of anti-union literature each day. One read: "Will the store close if the union gets in? There are no guarantees... The union has a terrible record of store closings." All of the literature ends with "Vote No."

Tashawna Green, a 21-year-old sales floor worker, said supervisors are pulling employees into one-on-one meetings. "They keep telling us about dues and stores closing because of the union," she said. "It's been very intimidating."

Leaders of the campaign say workers are scared they'll lose their jobs, but that they are standing together in the face of Target's anti-union tactics.

"We're reaching out to them to stand strong," Ms. Green said. "We're telling them they have to listen to both sides of the story. And they are standing strong." **OP**

## **Small and Neighborhood Business Protection Act Passes Cali. Senate**

The California Senate approved yesterday a bill that forces cities and counties to review an economic impact report before approving or rejecting 'big box' retail projects.

"When it becomes law, SB 469, the Small and Neighborhood Business Protection Act, will empower California communities where the public's quality of life is threatened by the uncontrolled spread of 'big box' retail stores," said Mickey Kasparian, president of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 135.

SB 469 requires developers of supercenters to submit their projects to an independent analysis to determine their potential effects on existing businesses, jobs, wages and tax revenues.

"Along with our allies in the community, UFCW Local 135 has fought to defend the economic and social welfare of our cities and neighborhoods for more than a decade," Kasparian said.

"Too often, we have seen mammoth corporations move into communities, destroying long-established local businesses, driving down wages and turning their surrounding areas into blighted colonies dominated by outside interests.

"We thank Sen. Vargas for introducing this bill as well as Sen. Christine Kehoe for her support," said Kasparian. "We look forward to its passage by the California Assembly." **OP**

## **Working People Celebrate Victory in New York**

Democrat Kathy Hochul was sworn into Congress this afternoon, close to a week after scoring an upset victory in Western New York. UFCW Local 1 members, along with community activists concerned by the GOP's attack on Medicare and Medicaid, worked hard to get out the vote and make sure voters were informed about what was at stake in the election. By electing Hochul, Western New York voters sent a clear message to the entire country that working people will not stand for a radical agenda that cuts our vital social safety net while preserving tax cuts for the wealthy and corporate elite.

Hochul spoke passionately throughout her campaign about helping the district's working families. She is committed to protecting the Affordable Care Act, stopping attacks on Medicare and Medicaid and protecting those who rely on the very programs that they have paid into throughout the years.

In a statement following the election, Kathy Hochul thanked labor and community activists who helped put her in office. "I am so looking forward to working for ALL the residents of the 26th District, as I fight for the issues they care about in Washington," Hochul said. **OP**