

## UFCW Locals 21, 367 and the Teamsters Stand Together for Fair Grocery Contract



*Members from UFCW Locals 21 and 367 join the Teamsters and fight for good contracts for grocery workers in the Pacific Northwest.*

Thirty thousand members of UFCW Locals 21 and 367 and International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 38 in Washington state are covered by contracts at grocers Albertsons, Safeway, Fred Meyer and Quality Food Centers and many other local independent stores that are up for bargaining this year. As the companies have proposed elimination of healthcare, cuts to pay, and denied paid sick days, UFCW and Teamsters members have responded with more solidarity than ever.

In the month of July, hundreds of members of the three union locals were joined by hundreds of community supporters at informational pickets in front of stores in more than ten communities to seek the support of customers as they try to reach a fair deal. The next week, they leafleted thousands of fans at “Union Solidarity Night” at the Seattle Mariners’ Safeco Field.

“All we’re asking for is fair pay and benefits for our hard work,” said Barbara Rhodes, a UFCW Local 21 QFC deli worker and member of the bargaining team. “That lets us focus on caring for our families and taking care of the customers that depend on us.”

By mobilizing the customers they serve every day and standing shoulder-to-shoulder with their union brothers and sisters and community supporters, members of the locals are hopeful they will be able to build a better future for all grocery workers in the Pacific Northwest. **OP**

## UFCW Ohio Locals Prepare to Fight “Right to Work”



*UFCW members in Ohio attend message training sessions to prepare them to fight “right to work” legislation.*

Last week, UFCW Locals 75, 880, and 1059, along with the International Chemical Workers Union, participated in day-long “right to work” message training sessions in Dayton, Columbus, and Akron.

The purpose of these sessions was to prepare everyone in Ohio for a future fight against harmful “right to work” legislation.

The sessions dove deep into the nasty details of “right to work” legislation. Participants learned where the legislation comes from, who’s behind it, how it affects collective bargaining, and most importantly how to persuade and mobilize members to oppose it.

Special guests at the session included a communications expert from We Are Ohio, as well as UFCW local union staff from Missouri and Indiana, to share what they learned from their states’ recent fights against “right to work.”

Last year, right to work legislation was passed hastily in Indiana and Michigan. Given the anti-worker majorities in both houses of the Ohio legislature, “right to work” could be brought up at any time. There is also a petition circulating that is attempting to collect enough signatures to put a “right to work” initiative on the ballot. In Ohio, petition signatures never expire so this action is being closely watched. Being prepared to fight against this legislation now will give the UFCW an advantage if and when it arises. **OP**

## RWDSU and Allies Release Report Proving NYC Living Wage Legislation has Positive Impact



*The RWDSU teams up with community allies to release a report that shows the NYC living wage legislation is having a positive impact on the community.*

The RWDSU, along with Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr., City Council members, faith leaders, and other allies released a new report showing that living wage legislation passed last year in the New York City Council is already covering more than 12,000 jobs on new development projects, and will continue to have a positive impact on New York City's economy.

The legislation went into effect in late September of 2012, and the report closely examines new economic development projects that have received \$1 million or more in taxpayer subsidies since then. The figure of \$1 million is the amount of taxpayer support that triggers the living wage requirement, according to the terms of the legislation. The living wage rate is currently set at \$10.20 an hour with benefits or \$11.75 an hour without benefits.

Developers and companies are as eager as ever to do business with the city, the report finds, and data show that more than 12,000 jobs are to be created on a range of new economic development projects covered by the living wage requirement. The New York City Industrial Development Agency (IDA), the agency directly responsible for assisting economic development projects with taxpayer support, has been operating at full capacity, with no change in the number of applications for subsidies.

“With the alarming growth of low-wage jobs, a record number of working New Yorkers live in poverty today. The report shows the living wage legislation will help reverse that disturbing trend.

By setting a higher standard for new jobs created with public resources, city government will ensure greater fairness and equity in economic development while boosting wages for struggling households. We must continue on this path,” said RWDSU President Stuart Appelbaum, who built and led the citywide campaign for the living wage legislation.

The full report can be viewed at <http://bit.ly/14zHgf6>. **OP**

## Walmart Workers Increase Calls for Better Jobs and Continue to Fight Illegal Firings

Walmart associates, warehouse workers, and UFCW locals are fighting back with an unprecedented wave of actions planned on the ground and online this week in response to Walmart's increased attempts to silence employees whose calls for better jobs were heard at the company's June shareholder meeting. Thousands of people nationwide are making the calls for an immediate end to the company's suppression of workers' basic freedom to speak out for better jobs directly to Walmart Board members online, at their homes, and at their offices.

With their calls for the creation of better jobs at Walmart resonating widely, workers assert that the company feels threatened and has doubled down on its suppression of associates. In the past few weeks alone, Walmart has fired and disciplined 60 more workers for taking part in the legally protected strike. They are calling on the Board for an end to the labor mismanagement under CEO Mike Duke's leadership that has led to understaffing, unsafe conditions, and illegal retaliation in stores, warehouses and at suppliers.

Actions picked up the pace this week with protests in Boston and the Bay Area after previous protests calling on Yahoo! CEO and Walmart Board Member Marissa Mayer at Yahoo! meetings last week. Workers plan to continue taking their message directly to Walmart Board of Directors members at their offices, homes, and public events in the coming days and weeks. Demonstrations are also taking place at stores across the country. **OP**