

Workers and Community Escalate Calls on Walmart to Reinstate Illegally Fired Workers During Actions



OUR Walmart members and allies hold an action in NYC to call on Walmart Board Director Christopher Williams, to reinstate illegally fired workers.

Walmart workers, joined by community members from throughout the entire nation, escalated their calls to reinstate illegally fired Walmart employees by Labor Day. Last month, members of OUR Walmart held a nationwide strike and “Ride for Respect” caravan protesting Walmart’s unfair labor practices (ULP), which took them on a bus ride to Walmart’s headquarters in Bentonville, Arkansas, leading up to Walmart’s June annual shareholder meeting. While in Bentonville, Walmart workers protested outside of the company’s headquarters calling for an end to its attempt to silence workers.

In Southern California, more than 100 protestors demonstrated in front of the Walmart store in Lakewood, California, while a delegation of clergy members and illegally fired Walmart workers talked to management at that store calling on them to reinstate Walmart employees who were unfairly fired.

As part of this week of action, associates across the country also led actions on Walmart board of directors. Summer for Respect participants from New Jersey, Long Island, and Walmart Free NYC jointly planned to host the fired OUR Walmart members in New York, and RWDSU, Retail Action Project and others turned out to support. Christopher Williams, a member of Walmart’s Board of Directors works and lives in NYC, so the group led delegations to his home, office, and other boards and organiza-

tions with which he’s associated. The groups also visited Marissa Mayer’s NYC Yahoo! office.

All across the U.S., similar actions took place during the week including Chicago, Dallas, Miami, Washington D.C., Sacramento, and the San Francisco Bay Area.

In response, Walmart has illegally disciplined or fired more than 60 Walmart workers. Workers refuse to be silenced and continue to call for change at the world’s largest private employer. **OP**

More Workers to Join UFCW Local 540 with New Campbell’s Soup Production Line



UFCW Local 540 members celebrate the opening of a new production line at the Campbell’s Soup Plant that will create 70 jobs.

UFCW Local 540 members celebrated the opening of a new production line at the Campbell’s Soup plant in Paris, Texas. The 76,000 square foot addition to the plant will house the new ready to eat production line and will create 70 new jobs. The plant in Paris is the second Campbell’s plant to produce packaged fresh soups. The packaged fresh soups are ready-to-eat like the Campbell’s canned soups, but they are made using a specialized cooking method.

Currently the plant has about 800 workers. The workers and the relationship between UFCW Local 540 members and the company played a direct role in the Paris plant being selected to have the new production line. Campbell’s Paris plant also makes Campbell’s condensed soups, Prego Italian sauces, Pace Mexican sauces and V8 juices. **OP**

WCA Car Wash Workers Vote to Join RWDSU



Workers at WCA Car Wash are the latest workers in New York City to vote for a union voice on the job with the RWDSU.

Workers at the WCA Car Wash in Soundview area of New York City voted unanimously today to join the RWDSU, becoming the seventh car wash in the city where workers have voted to unionize.

WCA Car Wash, known to the workers as the Rico Pobre Car Wash, is owned by John Lage, who is the largest car wash owner in New York City, owning more than 20 car washes in the metropolitan area.

Omar Pineda, a 35-year old worker from El Salvador, said, “My coworkers and I are thrilled with our victory and feel very grateful for all the support from the community. Just as we won our election we are going to win a just contract. We hope that with the union contract we will win the respect we deserve.”

Lage has been under investigation by the New York State Attorney General’s office for serious allegations of wage-and-hour violations. In 2009, Lage was forced to pay \$3.4 million to workers for back pay and damages after a federal lawsuit. A recent report by RWDSU, New York Communities for Change (NYCC) and the Center for Popular Democracy (CPD) found that businesses owned by Lage and his associates could generate as much as \$34 million a year in revenue, while paying workers minimum wage salaries.

This victory is the result of the WASH New York campaign. The campaign is a broad project to raise community concerns about widespread mistreatment of workers in the car wash industry. It launched earlier this year as a joint effort between Make the Road New York (MRNY) and New York Communities for Change (NYCC) and supported by the RWDSU.

The WASH NY campaign has quickly gained momentum, with workers at six car washes holding elections to join the RWDSU throughout New York City, winning a successful strike at the Sunny Day Car Wash in the Bronx, saving the jobs of workers at the Soho Car Wash, and ratifying two union contracts at Sunny Day and Astoria Hi-Tek Car Wash & Lube. The campaign has brought about significant change in how workers are treated, even at washes where the workers don’t have a union voice. **OP**

UFCW Will Urge House Members to Act on Immigration Reform throughout August Recess



UFCW members from across the country will continue to reach out to their Representatives about passing comprehensive immigration reform.

As Congress begins their August recess, UFCW International and local unions across the country are focused on keeping the legislative push for comprehensive immigration reform alive and strong. This is a key moment in the immigration debate. UFCW local unions and members across the country have plans to do everything they can this August to ensure their members of Congress return to the Capitol building in September ready and willing to act on a comprehensive immigration reform bill that reflects UFCW values.

Earlier in the summer, UFCW members successfully lobbied their Senators to pass a bipartisan comprehensive immigration reform bill that includes a roadmap to citizenship. This summer, they intend to convince the House to do the same. While House members spend the month of August at home in their districts, they will hear from UFCW members at town-hall meetings and other events about the importance of passing an immigration bill that makes sense for workers. The UFCW is pushing to create a com-



mon sense immigration process that recognizes the hardships and contributions of people moving here, keeps families together, and creates a roadmap to citizenship for new Americans who aspire to be citizens. **OP**

UFCW Members Remain Committed to Rebuilding Haiti



The UFCW Charity Foundation has donated more than \$450,000 to bring food, water and technology to Haitian children and their families.

On January 12, 2010, a massive earthquake struck Haiti, causing catastrophic damage in and around the capital city of Port-au-Prince. In total, the earthquake affected more than 3.5 million people, killing 220,000, injuring 300,000 and destroying or badly damaging over 250,000 homes. As a result of the earthquake, 1.5 million Haitians became homeless overnight.

Since that time, UFCW local unions from around the country have remained committed to helping the people of Haiti rebuild their communities. The UFCW Charity Foundation distributed more than \$450,000 to bring food, water and technology to Haitian children and their families and partnered with several local foundations to provide earthquake relief. The foundations include Reviving Haiti, which funds clean water access to Haitian families; Hope for Haiti and High Hopes for Haiti, which are working to build computer labs and libraries at St. Francois de Sales school and James Stine College; and God to Haiti, which provides hot meals for children and families.

A great deal of work remains to be done in Haiti—a country of origin for many UFCW members—and the UFCW remains committed to helping our Haitian brothers and sisters recover from this tragedy. **OP**