

## Cincinnati Processing Workers Join UFCW Local 75



*Workers from Cincinnati Processing celebrated after forming their union with Local 75.*

More than 30 workers from the Cincinnati Processing pork plant in Cincinnati, Ohio, voted to join Local 75 last week. They came together for a voice at work after facing down a lack of respect and a need for secure wages and benefits and voted by 2 to 1 to stand together and form a union.

“We organized so that our families could have better lives,” said Ignacio Huertas, a food processing worker at Cincinnati Processing. “We could have just stayed silent, but instead we stood up and stuck together and we won. I hope that our victory gives other workers the confidence to do what we did.”

The workers still face challenges, however. The plant is also staffed by more than 100 temporary workers who still have no voice or job security, and workers expect a tough fight for their first contract. The plant processes pork chops and ground pork. **OP**

## Leading Up to Black Friday, Walmart Workers Strike in Los Angeles and Seattle

In the days leading up to Black Friday, hundreds of Walmart workers and members of OUR Walmart in the Los Angeles area and Seattle have intensified their calls for Walmart to end its practice of retaliating against workers who are simply exercising their right to speak out for a better life and improved working conditions. Last week in Los Angeles during a two-

day strike, more than 50 people, including Walmart workers, members of the clergy and community members, were arrested in the largest act of civil disobedience against the retail giant. Yesterday in Seattle, members of OUR Walmart and community allies also went on strike and called for an end to the retail giant’s illegal retaliation against workers speaking out for positive change.

“I was nervous about going on strike, but I know the only way things will change is if we stand up,” said Juan Becerra, a Los Angeles Walmart worker.

Citing Walmart’s \$17 billion in profits last year, members of OUR Walmart are calling on the retail giant to publicly commit to raising wages and increasing access to full-time hours so that no worker at Walmart makes less than \$25,000 per year. A recent article in **CNN Money** argues that Walmart can afford to give its workers a 50 percent raise and still remain profitable.

Members of OUR Walmart promise more actions throughout the month and on Black Friday and have launched a **petition** to President Obama and unveiled an **online portal** that lets associates sign up for community support. For more information or to sign the petition, sponsor a striker or attend a Black Friday action in your community, visit <http://blackfridayprotests.org/>. **OP**



*Members of OUR Walmart in the Los Angeles area and Seattle went on strike for better working conditions at the nation’s largest retailer.*

## American Red Cross Workers in Central Ohio Ratify First Contract



*American Red Cross workers in central Ohio ratified their first union contract.*

On November 10, 165 workers from the American Red Cross Central Ohio Blood Services Region ratified their first contract. The vote was 98 to accept the contract with seven “no” votes. The three-year contract includes mandatory pay increases, a bonus in the first year and additional monies added to all employees’ base hourly rate to offset the restructuring of the employee stipend structure.

“This new contract proves that by sticking together, workers have the power to bargain for a better life,” said Local 1059 Secretary-Treasurer and lead negotiator Mark Fluharty. “In unity there is strength, and I hope our new contract empowers other Red Cross workers to fight for a voice on the job.”

Local 1059 was in bargaining for over 13 months. The company made two offers that were rejected. Ultimately, Local 1059 took the message to the supporters of the American Red Cross, including blood donors and blood sponsors, asking them not to support American Red Cross blood drives while this labor dispute was going on. This show of public support helped to bring the American Red Cross back to the table, and an agreement was finally able to be hammered out. **OP**

## Support SEC’s Proposal to Require Corporate Pay Ratio Disclosures

Today’s CEOs make 354 times the average worker’s pay, according to the AFL-CIO’s **Executive Paywatch website**. The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act requires companies to disclose CEO-to-worker pay ratios, but corporate CEOs have been lobbying to keep this data a secret.

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) recently proposed a rule requiring publicly traded companies to report the median annual pay for their employees, and is accepting comments about the proposal until December 2. Please take a moment to tell the SEC to require pay ratio disclosure by visiting [go.affcio.org/CEO-Pay-Disclosure](http://go.affcio.org/CEO-Pay-Disclosure). **OP**

## UFCW Applauds Senate’s Passage of ENDA

On November 7, the Senate voted 64 to 32 to pass the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), which would prohibit workplace discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

“I applaud the Senate on its bipartisan support for ENDA. No one should be fired just for being gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender,” said UFCW International President Joe Hansen in a statement issued last Thursday. “It goes against everything we stand for as Americans. At the UFCW, we have been proud to win strong non-discrimination language in our contracts. But in more than half of all states, a worker can be fired solely because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. This is wrong. Workers should be judged on their ability to do the job, not where they are from, what they look like, what language they speak, or who they love. Today, the Senate has taken an important step toward protecting America’s workers from discrimination. I urge the House to do the same.”

OUTreach, the UFCW’s new LGBT constituency group, is mobilizing to get this important legislation passed in the House. For more information or to become a member of OUTreach, visit <http://ufcwoutreach.org/>. **OP**

# ON POINT

UFCW Unity Agenda of the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union

Members of OUR Walmart and community allies in Los Angeles and Seattle called on Walmart to end its practice of retaliating against workers who speak out for positive change. More photos are available at <http://blackfridayprotests.org/>.

