

Giant and Safeway Workers from UFCW Locals 27 and 400 Ratify New Contract Today



UFCW Local 400 Giant and Safeway grocery workers gathered at the D.C. Armory and voted to ratify a new contract.

Giant and Safeway grocery workers from UFCW Locals 27 and 400 voted to ratify a new contract today. The new contract will cover more than 22,000 grocery workers in the Northern Virginia, D.C., and Maryland area.

“We have showed the company we are strong and this contract reflects that,” said UFCW Local 400 Giant worker Maria Gomez.

The ratification votes follow a tentative agreement reached last week after the previous contract was extended twice.

Addressing Safeway workers at the voting, UFCW Local 400 President Mark Federici said, “Thank you to the membership for your patience in this bargaining process, especially in these complicated bargaining times. The strength and solidarity you and your brothers and sisters at Giant have shown to be powerful and instrumental in the bargaining talks.” **OP**

RWDSU “Carwasheros” and Advocates Fight for Passage of the Car Wash Accountability Act

Elected officials, workers, and advocates are urging the New York City Council Committee on Civil Service and Labor to pass the Car Wash Accountability Act. The Act would mandate licensing, ownership transparency, environmental



Car wash workers, RWDSU members, and community advocates call for the passage of the Car Wash Accountability Act to bring standards and regulations to the industry.

regulations, and other rules over an industry which, advocates say, may be engaging in environmentally problematic practices, and failing to protect consumer rights.

The Car Wash Accountability Act would require car washes to obtain a one-year license – like hundreds of other businesses – and would mandate complete owner transparency, and proof of coverage for workers’ compensation and unemployment and disability insurance. Car washes would be required to post a surety bond and owners would face stiff penalties for fraud, misrepresentation, or other violations. Civil penalties range up to \$15,000 and the law would take effect six months after enactment.

“This legislation will protect workers, the environment and consumers against possible violations that could be harmful to our communities and the environment,” said Stuart Appelbaum, president of the RWDSU. “The city has virtually no oversight over some 200 car washes,” Appelbaum continued. “There have been instances where some car washes put dirty wastewater and sludge into our city’s sewers and landfills. And consumers may have little recourse if a car wash does damage to a vehicle.”

Workers from seven car washes across New York City now have a union voice on the job and six of those locations have contracts with the support of the WASH NY campaign and the RWDSU. **OP**



New Documents Reveal Shadowy Behavior at ALEC

The American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) is under fire again. ALEC is a right-wing lobbying group that brings together state lawmakers and corporations to create cookie cutter legislation that benefits special interests and hurts workers.

ALEC has been behind efforts to undermine unions and strip workers of their rights on the job.

Last week, *The Guardian* published several internal documents which showed ALEC has seen sharp declines in both membership and corporate funding in response to its extreme agenda.

One of the major controversies surrounding ALEC is its tax-exempt status. ALEC's primary purpose is to influence legislation at the state level, yet for years it has claimed in tax returns that it does not spend a single penny on lobbying. In its series, *The Guardian* reported that ALEC has created a separate non-profit group called the "Jeffersonian Project," raising even more red flags.

The UFCW and other unions are calling for an investigation of ALEC in light of the documents revealed by *The Guardian*.

Members can read *The Guardian* series, sign the petition demanding an investigation, and get more information at www.ufcwaction.org/ALEC. **OP**

RWDSU/UFCW Trade Fair Supermarket Workers and Supporters Condemn Surprise Store Closing

UFCW Locals 342 and 338* and members are standing together with several elected officials and community members to condemn Trade Fair Supermarkets for selling their store and closing their doors with no notice to its employees. The group also called on the new owner of the location to rehire the terminated workers. The workers were joined by State Senator Jose Peralta, Assembly Member Francisco Moya, City Council Member Daniel Dromm and Vincent Alvarez, President of the New York City Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO.

The Trade Fair Supermarkets consist of nine store locations across Queens, New York. UFCW Local 338* members work



UFCW Locals 342 and 338* Trade Fair Supermarket workers and community supporters protest the sudden store closing without giving any notice to workers.

in the "front end" (all departments, except meat) of all nine stores while UFCW Local 342 members work in the meat departments.

On December 10, dozens of union workers reported to work at the Trade Fair Supermarket in Jackson Heights. When they arrived, management informed the employees that the store had been sold and that they were terminated effective immediately. Over 50 employees found themselves suddenly out of work two weeks before Christmas.

Trade Fair's actions violate the collective bargaining agreements with the two local unions. The collective bargaining agreement between Trade Fair and UFCW Local 338* demands that in the case of a sale or closure of the store, Trade Fair is to provide the union and the workers with at least two weeks notice. Further, Trade Fair has a legal obligation to bargain with UFCW Local 338* over the closing of the store, including discussing the terms of wages and benefits that are owed, as well as any severance.

Trade Fair has not responded to repeated requests to bargain. The company's actions are also a potential violation of the Warn Act, which in New York State may require employers to provide their workers with at least 90 days notice of a closure.

"The fact that these workers were terminated without notice, and without the option of applying for their jobs under the new management is the very reason why the labor movement exists -- to give workers the strength to fight against injustice in the workplace," said Alvarez. **OP**