

Bob's Furniture Workers Say "Yes" to a Union Voice and Join UFCW Local 328



Bob's Furniture workers in Attleboro, Mass., voted to join UFCW Local 328.

Last week, more than a dozen workers at Bob's Furniture in Attleboro, Mass., came together for a union voice at work and voted to join UFCW Local 328.

The Bob's Furniture workers were focused on job security during their campaign to become part of UFCW Local 328. Job security will also be a key element in their contract when negotiations begin. **OP**

Gourmet Specialty Foods Packing and Processing Workers Vote to Join UFCW Local 1445

More than 20 workers at the Gourmet Specialty Food meat-packing and processing plant in Andover, Mass., voted to join UFCW Local 1445. At the plant, workers package and process poultry, pork, beef, and turkey products. Workers voted to have a union voice on the job last week after a three month organizing campaign that included house calls and weekend meetings with workers.

Workers wanted to have a union voice so they could change working conditions at their plant. A fair work schedule with set hours and health benefits are important issues to workers in the plant. Contract negotiations are set to begin as soon as possible. **OP**

Walmart Among Lowest-Ranked Sites According to New Personal Security Report



A new study names Walmart amongst the lowest-ranked companies for password security and consumer protection.

A new study reveals that Walmart puts online consumers' personal data at risk, due to the limited standards Walmart requires for users' passwords. Walmart was named among the lowest-ranked companies evaluated in the study, with a score of -35, on a scale from -100 to 100, where 100 is the best.

The study, compiled by password security firm Dashlane, evaluated the password policies of the top 100 e-commerce sites in the U.S., based on two dozen criteria. For customer account passwords, Walmart requires only a minimum of six characters, does not require numbers or capital letters, accepts numerous commonly used passwords, and continues to allow normal login attempts after four incorrect passwords. Walmart does not provide advice on strong passwords when they're created or show an assessment of password strength. The company also does not send a confirmation email when an account is created, eliminating an opportunity for consumers to spot fraudulent activity.

Dashlane explains the hazards of lax password policies like Walmart's: "The danger with a weak password policy is that it leaves users' personal data vulnerable. The weaker the password, the easier it is for hackers to break into an account. Therefore, sites with lenient password policies are leaving their users exposed to greater risk."

The full report can be read at <http://bit.ly/1kyKneK>. **OP**

UFCW President Hansen Releases Statement on Revival of NLRB Election Rule

UFCW International President Joe Hansen released the following statement in response to the National Labor Relations Board's (NLRB) reviving a proposal to streamline union elections.

“When the Senate cleared a path for the current NLRB to be confirmed, I called it the best day for workers and their families in years, if not longer. Today we are beginning to see why. I salute the Board for reviving a common sense and desperately needed proposal to streamline the process for workers to form a union. Too many employers use frivolous litigation and other technicalities to create delays so they can intimidate, harass, and in some cases fire pro-union employees before an actual vote occurs. This proposal would limit the influence of bad actors and ensure workers can have their voices heard in a fair and timely fashion. I hope this is the first of many steps the NLRB will take to carry out their mission of promoting collective bargaining.” **OP**

Expansion of NYC “Living Wage” Law Set to Help Retail Workers

UFCW/RWDSU staff and members are joining allies and New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio in support of the passage of a new bill that they are framing as an expansion of the “Living Wage” law enacted in 2012. The new bill would bar retail tenants in developments that receive city subsidies from opposing efforts from workers to organize and join a union. In return, union members would promise not to picket the stores or call for work stoppages.

In his State of the City Address this week, Mayor de Blasio stated that he will push efforts to pass the new bill and improve working conditions and wages for workers in the city.

As an official supporter of the new bill, President RWDSU District Council of the UFCW Stuart Applebaum argues that even though the bill does not directly affect wages, through collective bargaining, workers can achieve not just higher wages, but steadier hours and better workplace conditions.



A new bill in New York City will bar retail tenants in city subsidized developments from preventing workers' efforts to join a union.

The current “Living Wage” law requires companies that receive city subsidies, and their on-site contractors or subcontractors, to pay workers at least \$10 an hour plus benefits, or \$11.50 without benefits, above the state’s minimum of \$8 an hour. There are many exemptions to the current law, though, including companies with less than \$5 million in annual revenue, manufacturing companies and companies that receive less than \$1 million in subsidies. **OP**

Highly Cited Anti-Minimum Wage Research Center Run by Restaurant Industry PR Firm

The *New York Times* recently revealed that the Employment Policies Institute, an economic research center that publishes reports stating the dangers of increasing the minimum wage, is run by a public relations firm that represents the restaurant industry. The article goes on to explain how industry groups run campaigns through organizations that mask their deep pocket supporters in efforts to shape political debates on important issues such as increasing the minimum wage.

The article continues, “The Employment Policies Institute, founded two decades ago, is led by the advertising and public relations executive Richard B. Berman, who has made millions of dollars in Washington by taking up the causes of corporate America.”

The full article can be read at <http://nyti.ms/M5DGm0>. **OP**