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Contact: Leanne Tory-Murphy

leanne@workersunitednynj.org



STARBUCKS UNION LAUNCHES IN QUEENS – ASTORIA STORE FIRST TO FILE
More than 145 stores have filed nationally, Queens electeds pledge support

New York, NY -- It's a big day for Starbucks Workers United in NYC – Queens is on the map, joining unionizing stores in Brooklyn, Manhattan and Long Island! This morning, baristas at the 31st Street location in Astoria published a public letter unanimously expressing support for the union and filed a petition for a union election.

Queens elected officials representing the store at the local, state, and federal levels have signed an open letter asking Howard Schultz, who will resume his position as Starbucks CEO in April after the retirement of Kevin Johnson, to respect workers' right to organize and to sign on to the Fair Election Principles. **NY State Senator Michael Gianaris, NY State Assemblymember Zohran Mamdani and NYC Council Member Tiffany Cabán** plan to make visits to the store this afternoon to show their support for the union effort.

"My fellow partners and I decided to unionize because we are forced to manage the consequences of decisions we were not a part of, made by people who don't understand what it is like to live a life as a Starbucks barista." - **Brandi Alduk, partner for 3 years**

"We unanimously agree that union representation is instrumental in forging a fair and prosperous path ahead for ourselves and our fellow service industry workers. We are so excited by all of the support we are getting from our community." **James, partner for 3 years**

"I want to form a union because I believe that us as partners should have a say in how our stores are run and how we work. We're the ones there on the floor, we deal with

everything, and it is a perspective that corporate doesn't have." – **Kevin, partner for 2.5 years**

The Starbucks Workers United campaign, a collaboration between Starbucks partners and the union, Workers United, was started by Starbucks partners in Buffalo, NY in August. It has quickly gained momentum throughout the country with new states and locations joining every week. There are currently more than 145 stores that have filed for union elections, and six that have conducted their elections and are now unionized. Seven stores in NYC and LI have filed for union elections so far, with more expected.

The first **union elections** in NYC will be an in-person vote at the Roastery (manufacturing) on 3/31 and the Roastery (retail) on 4/1. The Astor Place location will be voting by mail with ballots going out on 4/1. Ballots for Ceasar's Bay (Brooklyn), Great Neck (LI), and Massapequa (LI) will go out on 4/8.

Starbucks partners will hold a **speaking-out and rally** in support of their union efforts on **Friday 3/25 at 2pm outside the Roastery**, and will be joined by state Senator Jessica Ramos, who chairs the Labor Committee, Attorney General Tish James, and Starbucks partners from Buffalo who started the union campaign at the company.

This effort has not been without pushback by the company. Workers have faced increasing retaliation and intimidation in their efforts to unionize, and Starbucks corporate management has contracted notorious union-busting firm Littler Mendelson to assist them in these efforts. This week the **National Labor Relations Board** issued a complaint against the company for its Unfair Labor Practices with regards to workers at an Arizona location.

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About: Starbucks Workers United is a union of Starbucks Workers, by Starbucks Workers, for Starbucks Workers, organizing with the support of Workers United.

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