

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 1, 2022

media@workers-united.org



STARBUCKS UNION WINS AT NYC'S ROASTERY

Flagship location a massive victory for Starbucks Workers United

New York, NY -- The Starbucks Reserve Roastery in NYC's Chelsea market voted 46-36 to unionize tonight, making history as the first flagship store to unionize with Starbucks Workers United, and the tenth unionized Starbucks store in the U.S. The NYC store is one of only three Roastery locations in the country. In close collaboration with Starbucks partners (employees), the Workers United NY/NJ Regional Joint Board will now represent nearly 100 partners who work at the store.

"I'm proud of the culmination of our efforts to make our workplaces more democratic and equitable. Community is a value near and dear to my heart and I'm grateful and joyous to be in solidarity with my peers!" – Ley Kido, Starbucks partner of nine years

"Winning this election means we have an equal voice to make the change we ALL want to see. I feel empowered, I feel seen, I feel union STRONG!" – Ashley Carrigan, Starbucks partner of four years

"Today, we at the Roastery showed the world what can be built when we stand together in solidarity as workers and humans who understand our value. I am eager to begin the bargaining process with Starbucks and help the company achieve the industry-leader status that it aspires to." – Sam LaGow, Starbucks partner of six years

"Adapt, improvise, overcome." Conan Yim, Starbucks partner of two years

“Organizing the roastery has been one of the most meaningful things I’ve gotten the chance to participate in. Working with my fellow partners to come together and form a union has been SUCH an empowering experience for all of us. We deserve this. We work HARD at the Roastery EVERY SINGLE DAY. We deserve a living wage, meaningful access to healthcare, REAL job security, agency over our own schedules, and A SEAT AT THE TABLE.” – Aimes Shunk, Starbucks partner of six months

The partners at the Roastery filed for a union petition on February 10th, requesting March 3rd as a vote date. Starbucks delayed the process, giving them more time to run an anti-union campaign. The partners at the Roastery won their election despite a pervasive union busting campaign that involved one-on-one employee meetings with management, group captive audience meetings conducted by management, anti-union materials being distributed at the store, employee write-ups for minor infractions like lateness that occurred many months prior, and a general air of hostility in the workplace. Across the country Starbucks has relied on retaliatory practices to intimidate partners. Starbucks has temporarily closed stores that were seeking to unionize in Buffalo, as well as fired union leaders there. They also fired the “Memphis Seven,” a group of partners seeking to unionize their store in Tennessee, in retaliation for their union organizing. The company has continued to refuse to sign the Fair Election Principles which shows a lack of commitment to neutrality towards the organizing workers, and they have contracted with notorious union-busting law firm Littler Mendelson.

Last week, the Starbucks Workers United campaign in the NY metro area, filed Unfair Labor Practice allegations with the National Labor Relations Board on behalf of Starbucks employees in Great Neck and Manhattan. The allegations include that the company has engaged in illegal union busting practices, including threats of loss of income, threats of loss of opportunities for promotion, threats of loss of holiday time and benefits, disciplinary action, and threat of termination of part-time employees for refusal to work more hours, in retaliation for their support of the union. These allegations come on the heels of an [NLRB complaint against the company](#). Workers United has filed more than 70 Unfair Labor Practice charges on behalf of organizing Starbucks partners across the country.

Today's election at the Roastery took place in-person and is the first Starbucks union election in NYC. There will be upcoming mail ballot elections at Astor Place, Astoria, Ceasar's Bay (Brooklyn) as well as at locations in Great Neck and Massapequa on Long Island. [More than 185 stores](#) have filed union petitions nationally.

###

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

Twitter / Instagram / Facebook: @SBWorkersUnited @WorkersUnitedNY

STATEMENT IN EVENT OF LOSS

After a pervasive union busting campaign that involved one-on-one employee meetings with management, group captive audience meetings conducted by management, anti-union materials being distributed at the store, employee write-ups for minor infractions like lateness that occurred many months prior, and a general air of hostility in the workplace, Starbucks Workers United lost their petition to join a union at the Starbucks Reserve Roastery in NYC's Chelsea market today. The NYC store is one of only three Roastery locations in the country and employs nearly 100 workers.

The partners at the Roastery filed for a union petition on February 10th, requesting March 3rd as a vote date. Starbucks delayed the process, giving them more time to run an anti-union campaign. Across the country Starbucks has relied on retaliatory practices to intimidate partners. Starbucks has temporarily closed stores that were seeking to unionize in Buffalo, as well as fired union leaders there. They also fired the "Memphis Seven," a group of partners seeking to unionize their store in Tennessee, in retaliation for their union organizing. The company has continued to refuse to sign the Fair Election Principles which shows a lack of commitment to neutrality towards the organizing workers, and they have contracted with notorious union-busting law firm Littler Mendelson.

Last week, the Starbucks Workers United campaign in the NY metro area, filed Unfair Labor Practice allegations with the National Labor Relations Board on behalf of Starbucks employees in Great Neck and Manhattan. The allegations include that the company has engaged in illegal union busting practices, including threats of loss of income, threats of loss of opportunities for promotion, threats of loss of holiday time and benefits, disciplinary action, and threat of termination of part-time employees for refusal to work more hours, in retaliation for their support of the union. These allegations come on the heels of an [NLRB complaint against the company](#). Workers United has filed more than 70 Unfair Labor Practice charges on behalf of organizing Starbucks partners across the country.

Today's election at the Roastery took place in-person and is the first Starbucks union election in NYC. There will be upcoming mail ballot elections at Astor Place, Astoria, Ceasar's Bay (Brooklyn) as well as at locations in Great Neck and Massapequa on Long Island. [More than 185 stores](#) have filed union petitions nationally.

Partners at the Roastery will continue to work together to better conditions. As one partner said, "the fight goes on."