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Twin Cities Starbucks Workers Demand Union Recognition

Baristas in Minneapolis and St. Paul join Organizing Wave

Minneapolis and St. Paul, MN - Early Friday morning, the hourly workers at two Twin Cities Starbucks locations, demanded union recognition from CEO Kevin Johnson and local management. According to Workers United (an SEIU affiliate), an overwhelming majority of workers at both stores signed union authorization cards. The stores involved in the organizing drive are:

- 300 Snelling Ave Suite C, Saint Paul, MN 55105 and
- 4712 Cedar Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55407

These Twin Cities “partners” (Starbucks refers to its employees as such) are the first in Minnesota to join the [Starbucks Workers United](#) movement that has swept across the country. As of today, workers at the Seattle based, international coffee chain have filed for elections at over 70 other locations throughout the Country, including Cleveland OH, Ann Arbor MI and Chicago IL.

In a letter signed by a majority of the cafe’s workers and e-mailed Friday morning to Starbucks CEO Kevin Johnson, the staff at 300 Snelling Ave in Saint Paul expressed resolve to organize their workplace:

“We as workers at Starbucks invest our time, well-being and safety into a company that has shown repeated apathy towards its employees. We work in the midst of an ongoing global health crisis, and see little to no support... We want to see Starbucks become a healthier and more equitable workplace... We are organizing a union at the Snelling and Stanford store in Saint Paul to improve our workplace for ourselves, for members of our community, and for Starbucks as a whole.”

In a statement of support, Workers United International Vice President Kathy Hanshew added:

“Starbucks calls it’s employees “partners”, but it is abundantly clear that this so-called partnership is one of convenience for the company, that leaves many employee concerns unheard. It is time for Starbucks to do the right thing, acknowledge the voice of their partners, and allow their workers to unionize without interference.”

Across the country, Starbucks workers are organizing with Workers United (SEIU). Please contact Esau Chavez at (312)543-7257 or echavez@cmrjb.org to arrange interviews with Twin Cities Starbucks workers.

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