

OFFICIAL UNION NOTICE – PLEASE POST



Chartered by United Food & Commercial Workers International Union
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KIM C. CORDOVA
President

October 21, 2021

KEVIN R. SCHNEIDER
Secretary-Treasurer

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Dear UFCW Sisters and Brothers working at Safeway and Albertsons,

The majority of our Retail and Meat Colorado and Rock Springs, WY contracts covering roughly 6,500 workers are due to expire starting on January 8, 2022 (December 4, 2021 for Rock Springs, WY). On October 19, 2021, I sent a request to the Company for negotiation-bargaining dates. I will update you as soon as we secure dates. We held in person contract proposal meetings around the state as well as online contract surveys. I thank all who took the time to engage in the process as participation was huge!

The overwhelming sentiment is that workers are fed up and fired up. The last twenty-two (22) months have been challenging and strenuous to say the least for essential grocery workers. While Company executives worked from the safety and comfort of their homes, profited and benefited from the pandemic-era, frontline workers have taken the brunt of the situation.

These contract negotiations are going to be about standing together to fight for wage justice, a safer workplace, access to and maintaining quality and affordable Union healthcare benefits, and respect for the contribution and value you bring to the Company.

Together we will be fighting for the pay you deserve for the risk and rigors of the essential work you do every single day. The minimum wage in Denver County will be \$15.87 starting January 2022 while the rest of the state will be at \$12.56. Our demand will be that the Company significantly increase the **BOTTOM** and **TOP** rates to keep up with Denver's new minimum wage and to keep up with the high cost of living in Colorado and Wyoming.

Together we will be fighting for safer working conditions including reasonable workload and staffing requirements, armed security at every store during all working hours, and adequate training. The Company did little to nothing to protect you from the exposure to Covid-19. The Company failed to protect workers from unruly and violent customers, and the Company failed to address understaffed stores.

There has never been a better moment in our lifetime to stand up and demand change. We are witnessing the **"Great Resignation"** in our country. Workers are not quitting in masses because "no one wants to work anymore", workers are quitting because they are sick of dead-end jobs, employers who care more about their shareholders and their executives, and treated workers as sacrificial and fungible widgets. The **Great Resignation** is an expression that says, **WE DESERVE BETTER** and **ENOUGH** is **ENOUGH!**

I urge you to participate in the negotiation process by attending negotiation meetings. Stay updated and sign up for text messages by contacting your Union Representative, calling our hotline at 303-425-0897 or 1-800-854-7054 and pressing 8, and following us on social media.

It is time for Safeway / Albertsons to **Respect, Protect, and Pay Essential Grocery Store Workers!** When we fight together, we win together!

In Solidarity,

Kim C. Cordova
UFCW Local 7 Union President
UFCW International Vice President

KCC/mp/UFCW#7

