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- **Support King Soopers Workers on Strike**
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Support King Soopers Workers on Strike

As we reported last week, approximately 9,000 King Soopers workers in 77 stores throughout the Denver metropolitan area are on an unfair labor practice strike. They are fighting to make sure that the company abides by its legal obligations to bargain and treat them fairly. Their contracts expired on Saturday at midnight, so their “no-strike” clause expired at that time, enabling them to take the most courageous steps in fighting for each other and the community.

At the bargaining table they fight for better wages, safer working conditions, and better benefits. These are fair asks in an environment where we have unfortunately lost a number of our members during the pandemic that has ravaged the world over the last two years. Kroger is 17th on the fortune 500 list. They have implemented billion-dollar stock buybacks for their shareholders. Kroger has advantaged handsomely from the pandemic. Their workers haven't. Meanwhile, workers have been exposed to unsafe working conditions and unfortunate abuse by customers during dynamics of COVID. Their wages do not afford them what is needed to buy the very food they make sure is available to all of us.

A number of you have come to our picket lines already. You have sent pictures, and you have provided critical encouragement to our UFCW 7 members on strike.

Here are six things you can do to support grocery workers:

1. **DO NOT CROSS A PICKET LINE.** You can shop at a union Safeway/Albertson's store, Costco, or any other competitor during the pendency of the strike.
2. **Family and Friend Support.** Ask your family members and friends to honor the picket line as well.
3. **Join workers on the picket line, but *not while you are on the clock*** working at KP. Picket lines will be staffed during all hours the store is open. Tell picketers who you are – that you are a UFCW Local 7 member as well and offer to take pictures. **Text pictures to 303.588.2282.**
4. **Yard Signs.** Picketers will have access to **yard signs**. Please take a yard sign and put it on your lawn at home.
5. **Ask** the strike captain on duty at your local King Soopers if there is anything you can do to help out.
6. **Contribute** to help striking workers. While our strike fund is in good shape, some members of the community have asked if they can contribute to help workers in financial distress: <https://hardship-fund-for-striking-king-soopers-workers.cheddarup.com>

Annual Planning of Vacation and Planned Time Off Guidance (MULTI-PROFESSIONAL BARGAINING UNIT MEMBERS ONLY)

In our contract ratification meetings last month, we described the changes to the vacation and planned time off process for members of the multi-professional bargaining unit (i.e., not members of the mental health bargaining unit). The annual selection period process has already commenced. Please find guidance on the process here. THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT for annual planning. If you don't follow the changes you may be affected in ways that you don't like. <http://ufcw7.org/files/2022/01/Vacation-VPTO-Guidance-for-Multi-Professional-2022.02.pdf>