

For Immediate Release

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Workers at the Holiday Inn Express in Latham Initiate an Unfair Labor Strike

Colonie, NY – Following weeks of public action by Workers United Local 471, the owner of the Holiday Inn Express in Latham continues to refuse to admit wrongdoing in the firing of three workers who were terminated for trying to form a union at the hotel. The union has continued to demand that the Holiday Inn Express reinstate the workers with full back pay, admit to the unlawful firings, stop violating other labor laws and sign the fair election standards (attached) which were designed to create a level playing field and that prevents a climate of fear from chilling the workers' exercise of their rights.

Because of management's unlawful conduct, the fired **workers have expressed their intention to strike** until the Holiday Inn Express agrees to:

- Admit to their employees that they were unlawful in the unjustified firing of union supporters and communicate to employees that they will no longer violate federal labor law
- Pay the fired workers their back pay
- Stop unlawful interrogations of employees
- Stop spying on the union

The three workers – Molly Anastasio, Housekeeper, Craig Prusky, Asst. Engineer, and Becky Wallis, Housekeeper – were terminated within 24 hours of each other after they held their first organizing committee meeting with the hope of forming a union at the hotel. A fourth worker, Tiffany Wheeler was terminated shortly after. The decision to strike was a unanimous choice of the affected workers.

“Our position is simple: when workers’ want to build a union, they need to be given the freedom to do so without the fear of job loss or employer intimidation,” said Rev. Mike Roberts, Albany District Director of Local 471. “Union members, politicians, religious leaders and community residents have come together in solidarity to send a clear message to employers like Jim Morrell – don't infringe on workers' right to organize.”

“A group of us met outside of work to talk about forming a union. We like our jobs and our customers, but we need better treatment, better pay and better benefits,” said Wallis. “We want to bargain for those things by joining Workers United Local 471. As soon as the company found out who the union leaders were, they unlawfully fired us. My coworkers and I unanimously decided to go on strike until the Holiday Inn Express agrees to reinstate us with back pay, communicate to employees that they will stop breaking the law, stop unlawful surveillance on the union and stop unlawful interrogations.”

Workers United will be having a public event for members of the news media on Monday, June 8th at 4pm outside the Holiday Inn Express – Latham.

Workers United Local 471 is part of the Rochester Regional Joint Board of Workers United, which represents hotel, food service, gaming, textile and laundry workers across upstate New

York. Local 471 has 3,000 members. While the bulk of those members are in the Albany/Saratoga area, the local represents workers as far north as Plattsburgh, as far south as Poughkeepsie, and as far west as Binghamton. Workers United is an affiliate of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU).

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