

4. Government Administration, Human Resources, and Policy

.5 Call on Starbucks to Re-Open the College Avenue Store and Stop Union-Busting

WHEREAS, Starbucks employees at all three of the stores in Ithaca voted to unionize in order to have a voice in their working conditions and have become the first fully Starbucks-unionized city in the country; and

WHEREAS, the workers in Ithaca are part of a movement of Starbucks workers all over the country that started in Buffalo and has now spread to almost 200 stores; and

WHEREAS, Starbucks has engaged in a massive anti-union campaign that has led to the National Labor Relations Board issuing complaints for more than 200 separate violations including retaliatory firings, closing a store, and making threats; and

WHEREAS, the Starbucks workers working in the 402 College Ave Starbucks went on strike on April 16, 2022, to protest unsafe working conditions as a grease trap overflowed, creating a foul stench and a slipping hazard that was neglected by management, who originally told workers that repairs would be delayed for later in the week instead of later that day following the initiated strike; and

WHEREAS, Starbucks workers at 402 College Ave have identified a pattern of union-busting by Starbucks management, including a consistent reduction of staff hours, write ups for minor infractions, and the perpetuating of unsafe working conditions, including allowing a grease trap to overflow and the removal of a fan that acted as the only source of cooling during summer days; and

WHEREAS, the corporation's June 4th decision to close the Ithaca Starbucks located on 402 College Ave, despite its location in a high traffic, profitable area, and giving workers only one week's notice is clearly another example of union-busting; and

WHEREAS, the values of the City of Ithaca include respect for the right to organize unions and for workers to collectively bargain; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Ithaca Common Council condemns in the sharpest terms Starbucks' virulent and brutal anti-union attacks on its own workers; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Ithaca Common Council demands that Starbucks sign the Fair Elections Principles; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Ithaca Common Council calls upon Starbucks to immediately re-open the College Avenue store, allowing all its workers to return to work, and stop its anti-union practices.