

UFCW Local 7 Grocery Workers, Companies Agree to Extend Contract

UFCW Local 7 grocery workers in Colorado and their employers Safeway and King Soopers/City Market agreed to extend their current contract until May 30, though it can be scrapped with a 24 hours written notice by either party. Their current contract was set to expire on May 9 before midnight, but both companies announced their agreement against the ticking clock.

These companies have remained profitable during these tough economic times since more Americans are eating at home and avoiding the expense of dining out. Local 7 members are demanding a fair shake in securing good wages, a dignified retirement, and affordable, quality health care. **OP**

Former UFCW Assistant General Counsel Carol Clifford Named to Senior Post at Department of Agriculture

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack recently named Carol Clifford to act as Senior Advisor for Labor Affairs for the department. Clifford worked for the UFCW for 17 years as Assistant General Counsel and was adjunct faculty at the National Labor College. Prior to the appointment, she worked as a consultant specializing on labor and immigration matters and was a member of the Obama-Biden Presidential Transition Team.

Clifford has played an integral role in the UFCW's work around the ICE raids and in the creation of the UFCW's National Commission on ICE Misconduct and Violations of Fourth Amendment Rights, of which Secretary Vilsack was a member.

In addition to Vilsack and Clifford, Dr. William Spriggs, another member of the UFCW's National Commission, was recently nominated by President



Former UFCW Assistant General Counsel Carol Clifford sits with UFCW President Joe Hansen at a hearing held by the UFCW National Commission on ICE Misconduct and Violations of Fourth Amendment Rights.

Obama to serve as Assistant Secretary for Policy in the Department of Labor. **OP**

One-Year Anniversary of Postville, Iowa, Raid Underscores Need for Comprehensive Immigration Reform
 UFCW Local 431 joined leaders from the faith and immigrant communities today to mark the one-year anniversary of the ICE raid at the Agriprocessors plant in Postville, Iowa. Advocates for immigration reform took part in a march from a local church to the kosher meat processing plant.

At the time, the ICE raid was the largest single-site raid by federal agents, resulting in the arrest of almost 400 workers. The raid has had a devastating affect on the workers, their families, and the community.

An *ABC News-Washington Post* poll released in late April showed that 61 percent of Americans now favor giving undocumented immigrants "the right to live here legally if they pay a fine and meet other requirements." **OP**

Local 1529 Holds Community Forum Calling on Congress to Pass Employee Free Choice



UFCW Local 1529 member Tina Miller urges UFCW members and community activists to mobilize on behalf of passing the Employee Free Choice.

Community leaders joined with UFCW Local 1529 in calling for Congress to pass the Employee Free Choice Act during a town hall meeting in West Memphis, Arkansas. The event was part of a statewide and national mobilization of working Americans who are uniting for change in the workplace.

Workers met to discuss how the current economy impacts their livelihoods, and how passing Employee Free Choice is key to rebuilding an economy that strengthens the middle class. Arkansas Senators Blanche Lincoln and Mark Pryor are key votes for cloture for the Employee Free Choice Act, and Local 1529 members will not rest until their Senators hear the stories of working America. **OP**

Talking Points: Employee Free Choice

As legislation on the Employee Free Choice Act makes its way through Congress, it's important to ensure that three fundamental principles are preserved in the bill:

- **Workers have a free choice and a fair path to choose to form a union, free of intimidation;**
- **Real penalties exist for employers who break the law; and**
- **Companies should not be able to engage in endless delay tactics to deny workers a collective bargaining agreement.**

Every available resource is being dedicated to passing the Employee Free Choice Act and monitoring Congressional support for this legislation. For more up-to-date information on the Employee Free Choice Act, go to www.uncwforfreechoice.org. **OP**

Immigration Summit Slated for Washington, DC in Early June

Approximately 400 leaders in the immigrant, labor, and faith communities from around the country will convene in Washington, DC in June to build momentum for comprehensive immigration reform.

The summit is scheduled for June 3-5, 2009, and is sponsored by the Reform Immigration for America Campaign, a national coalition of labor, faith, and immigrant communities committed to winning congressional support for real immigration reform. The summit will provide leaders and advocates with the tools, information, team-building, and training necessary to meet the challenges of overhauling immigration in a meaningful way.

The UFCW is a board member of the Reform Immigration for America Campaign. It's important for UFCW leaders to be involved in the immigration reform debate as it is heating up state-by-state and district-by-district around the country.

If you are interested in attending the summit, please email UFCW Civil Rights and Community Action Director Esther Lopez, at elopez@uncw.org, for registration information or details on the meeting. **OP**