



Minnesota union files unfair labor practice charges against Walmart

25 June 2009

ST. PAUL - United Food & Commercial Workers Local 789 filed charges against Walmart Wednesday, alleging the world's largest retailer violated the National Labor Relations Act by engaging in unfair labor practices at its St. Paul store.

Workers at the Midway store and many other locations in Minnesota and other states are engaged in a union organizing campaign.

The complaint, filed with the National Labor Relations Board, states that on or about June 11 and following, employer representatives conducted captive audience meetings with workers. They claimed they could easily acquire a list of authorization card signers at any time and that union supporters would not continue to be employed by Walmart, the complaint says.

On or about June 11 and following, assistant store managers interrogated employees regarding their union support and whether or not they had signed a card. Also during that time, store managers from other Wal-Mart locations interrogated employees regarding their union support and whether or not they had signed a card, the complaint alleges.

Doug Mork, Director of Organizing for Local 789, said that "Walmart's behavior clearly shows why we need strong labor laws that protect workers from intimidation and why we need to pass the Employee Free Choice Act. If Walmart continues to engage in unlawful behavior they can expect a strong response from the community, labor, and people of faith."

UFCW Local 789 represents workers in retail, long-term care and food processing.