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UFCW Local 1776 Responds to Whole Foods Workers' Historic Union Victory and Amazon's Baseless Objections

PHILADELPHIA, PA (February 4, 2025) – On January 27, workers at the Amazon-owned Whole Foods flagship store in Center City Philadelphia voted to unionize with UFCW Local 1776, marking a major step forward in their fight for fair wages, better benefits, and a stronger voice in their workplace.

Despite a fair and legally conducted election held by the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), Whole Foods has chosen to file baseless objections in an attempt to delay the bargaining process and undermine workers' rights. This legal maneuvering is a blatant effort to avoid sitting across the table from their own employees and negotiating a fair contract.

"We fully expected Whole Foods to try to stall this process. Amazon has a well-documented history of using baseless objections to undermine the rights of workers seeking representation, and this case is no different," said UFCW Local 1776 President Wendell Young IV. "Their goal is clear: they don't want to bargain in good faith with their workers. But this fight is far from over. Members of the Philadelphia Whole Foods Union are prepared to hold the company accountable at every step of the process and demand that they respect their workers' decision to unionize."

Whole Foods' objections are fabricated and riddled with hypocrisy. While the company claims to "respect the workers' decision" in internal communications, they are simultaneously waging an aggressive legal battle to overturn the results. Their actions send a clear message: they are more interested in corporate double-speak and union-busting than in respecting their employees' voices.

Furthermore, any claims of union misconduct are completely unfounded. It was Whole Foods managers—not union organizers—who engaged in coercion and intimidation, even going as far as firing team members for supporting the union. Whole Foods' objections are nothing more than a distraction from their own pattern of anti-worker behavior that resulted in the filing of unfair labor practices and helped to further solidify the outcome of the election.

"The truth is simple," continued Young. "Whole Foods workers have made their decision. There is nothing legally preventing the company from recognizing the union and bargaining right now. Instead of playing legal games, Whole Foods should come to the table and negotiate in good faith."

Despite their attempt to delay, the Philadelphia Whole Foods Union intends to demand recognition and bargaining with the company, consistent with their ability to do so voluntarily under the law. UFCW Local 1776 remains committed to supporting these workers as they move towards securing the representation and contract they fought for.