

Press Release

United Food & Commercial Workers Local 876

Johnnie Turnage, Organizer Director
1-248-292-1755
Johnnie.Turnage@ufcw876.org



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Omies of Ann Arbor Union Organizing Effort Results in Terminations

[Madison Heights, Michigan, October 12, 2020] - Workers at Om Of Medicine in Ann Arbor embarked on an union organizing campaign after their community business was purchased by a multi-state employer; resulting in continued disregard for the worker recognition, safety and health.

Leo Gontmakher, chief executive officer with 4Front Ventures, who has been with company since 2019, was approached by workers on September 23, 2020, who requested he recognize their effort to gain union representation through a formal letter. Gontmakher refused the request quickly and within days, terminated three workers.

“Om of Medicine once stood as a leader in our community by supporting social justice and advocacy in cannabis. Together, we educated surrounding communities on cannabis prohibition and harms from the war on drugs; especially regarding police brutality and disproportionately arrests fueling mass incarceration of people of color,” Ana Gomulka, former social equity program coordinator said. “4Front Mission is not open to these conversations and believes speaking up about Black Lives Matter in relation to cannabis is ‘too political’ of a message to support.”

The Omies were the first to file for union representation in the state of Michigan on September 29, 2020, in the hopes of joining thousands of *UFCW Cannabis Workers Rising, A Voice for Medical Marijuana and Hemp Workers*, members who are already enjoying better wages, better benefits and a better life with respect on the job.

“I am excited to see the employees at Mission Ann Arbor, formerly known as Om of Medicine, continue to take the bold action to form a union to ensure all workers have a voice,” Lisa Conine, former community outreach coordinator said. “We are all incredibly passionate about creating a brighter future here in Michigan for the cannabis industry. One where front line workers are respected and heard, where bold steps are taken to bring about equity and justice, and where leaders are focused on service to their people, their communities and the planet.”

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The Cannabis Workers Rising:

<http://www.ufcw.org/cannabis-workers-rising-a-voice-for-medical-marijuana-and-hemp-workers>

<https://www.facebook.com/CannabisWorkers>

Instagram: #MICannabisWorkersRising

UFCW 876
248-585-9671 x: 8601
Join the movement: bit.ly/jointheCWG

www.ufcw876organizing.com

