

## **Resolution #24**

### **Support International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers at the Apple Store in Towson, Maryland and Oppose Apple's Union-Busting Closure**

#### **WHEREAS:**

Workers at the Apple Store in Towson, Maryland, voted to join the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM) in June 2022, making it the first unionized Apple retail store in the United States and Apple has responded by announcing the store's permanent closure, raising serious questions about union-busting and unequal treatment; and

#### **WHEREAS:**

While workers at the two non-union Apple stores that closed were offered transfers, IAM members at the Towson store were told to reapply as strangers to a company they helped build, a disparity so egregious that the IAM has filed both a grievance and an Unfair Labor Practice charge with the National Labor Relations Board, making clear that no company is above the law; and

#### **WHEREAS:**

The Towson store is a critical hub for the greater Baltimore region, serving students, working families, Black-owned small businesses, and the students and faculty of nearby HBCUs, including Morgan State University, Coppin State University, Bowie State University, and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore and its closure deepens the digital and economic divide that structural inequality has long imposed on Black communities; and

#### **WHEREAS:**

Black workers are disproportionately employed in retail and service sectors where union protections are a lifeline, and allowing the closure of the first unionized Apple store to stand without consequence sends a chilling message that organizing makes you a target, while Apple,

one of the most profitable corporations in history with a market capitalization exceeding \$3 trillion, has every resource needed to relocate this store and retain its workforce, making this closure a choice, not a necessity; and

**WHEREAS:**

With new leadership at Apple comes a clear choice to continue shutting workers out, or to build a new approach rooted in respect and collaboration and elected officials, community organizations, and customers nationwide are standing with these workers, making plain: if you want our loyalty, respect the workers behind your products.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

That the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists stands in full solidarity with the IAM-represented workers at the Towson Apple Store, demands Apple immediately reverse its closure decision and relocate the store so no worker loses their job for organizing, and fully supports the IAM's grievance and NLRB Unfair Labor Practice charge; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

That CBTU calls on Apple's new CEO and Board of Directors to honor their stated commitments to equity and inclusion by investing in and not abandoning Black communities in Baltimore, and calls on elected officials at all levels to demand accountability from Apple and oppose this closure; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED:**

That CBTU urges its members and affiliated councils to amplify this fight through public statements, direct action, and solidarity with the IAM and Towson workers, and that this resolution be transmitted to Apple Inc. and Apple's Board of Directors.

**Submitted by: CBTU Executive Council**