



THREE PARKS INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS

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Bob Botfeld & Cynthia Doty

State Committee

Lynn Thomas & Daniel Marks Cohen

RESOLUTION ADOPTED Wednesday 5/11/11

SWEATSHOP FREE UPPER WEST SIDE

WHEREAS, sweatshops still exist on the Upper West Side in restaurants, nail salons and other businesses, despite labor laws designed to prevent them,

WHEREAS, sweatshop conditions include, but are not limited to, failure to pay minimum wage and overtime pay, tip stealing, discrimination, and illegal firing and retaliation when workers stand up for their rights to organize,

WHEREAS, immigrant or U.S.-born workers are being forced to work longer hours for less pay with fewer benefits under unsafe and unhealthy conditions while employers continue to make profits,

WHEREAS, sweatshop bosses bring down working conditions and standards for all workers by creating a race to the bottom and undermining employers who do comply with the labor laws,

WHEREAS, in 2010, workers at Saigon Grill won a \$4.6 million wage and hour settlement from the previous owners, who were sent to prison; the new owners said they would comply with labor laws, but soon after reopening last fall, they broke these promises. They fired the older workers, and when the wait staff protested, they were fired too. In retaliation for trying to unionize, the delivery boys are being overstaffed, so no one can make any money. There is ongoing picketing and a boycott of this restaurant.

WHEREAS, a coalition of neighborhood organizations is asking restaurants, nail salons and other businesses to pledge to (1) be sweatshop free, (2) promise to uphold decent labor conditions for the enrichment of our community and (3) fight for workers rights. Many establishments in our area have signed this pledge.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Three Parks Independent Democrats unequivocally opposes sweatshop restaurants, nail salons and other businesses that do not comply with current labor laws and will work with other organizations in our community to make the Upper West Side sweatshop free.