

UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL 12PM PDT ON March 20, 2020

Voodoo Doughnut Workers Deliver Message to Management: You Have a Union Now

Portland, Oregon — Today the Voodoo Doughnut Workers Union (VWU) will deliver a letter to Voodoo Doughnut restaurant management. The message: you have a union now. Workers have formed Voodoo Doughnut Workers Union **to improve working conditions and demand concessions including, but not limited to, higher wages, security, and severance packages for all workers laid off due to the Covid-19 crisis**, at the popular Portland doughnut restaurant on 22 SW 3rd Ave. Voodoo Doughnut Workers Union is an **affiliate of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), Portland chapter**.

“We, the Voodoo Doughnut Workers Union ask, above all, that the company's ideals be mirrored in the care of its staff,” says Samantha Bryce, a worker at Voodoo Doughnut’s ‘Old Town’ location. “We believe that fair compensation and safety for all workers throughout the 22 SW 3rd Ave restaurant is essential to ensuring its success: salaries, wages, safety concerns, and benefits at the restaurant must be sustainable for everyone.”

VWU workers have cited a number of serious grievances about their workplace, despite its hip and friendly image. The list includes safety concerns, low wages, stressful working conditions, and a lack of manageable PTO and Sick Leave, as well as severance packages for all who have been laid off due to the Covid-19 Crisis. “Forming a union will enable us—as well as future Voodoo Doughnut employees—to effectively advocate for changes that will make Voodoo Doughnut a more sustainable and equitable institution.” says Samantha Bryce. “We believe in Voodoo Doughnut and its mission; we want it to succeed, but we also recognize a need for critical changes at this moment in the restaurant’s growth.”

###

About Voodoo Doughnut Workers Union

Voodoo Doughnut Workers Union (VWU) is a doughnut workers union formed in 2020 and affiliated with the IWW branch in Portland, OR. Voodoo Doughnut Workers Union will be the first doughnut producing restaurant of its kind in Portland Oregon to have a union, and follows in the footsteps of the Burgerville Workers Union, the Little Big Union, Crush Workers Collective, and Scottie’s Pizza Union in their aim to unionize an otherwise unrepresented portion of the food service industry. All said unions are proudly based in Portland, Oregon.