A MESSAGE FROM THE CAMPAIGN
Because of the Making Change at Walmart campaign, state lawmakers are taking action against Walmart's overconsumption of taxpayer resources and 2 out of 3 Walmart stores in Suffolk VA, have stopped their hurtful practice of locking up African American hair products.

A BIG THANK YOU to the following Locals: 400, 99, 1625, 1000, 540, 653, 75, 1189, 324, 1473, and 1546.

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NATIONWIDE CAMPAIGN EXPOSES EXCESSIVE POLICE USE AT WALMARTS & DEMANDS DISCLOSURE

In December 2016, MCAW launched a nationwide field and media campaign calling attention to the high amount of taxpayer-funded police resources used by Walmart for shoplifting and petty crimes.

The campaign aired TV ads in Tampa, FL; Tulsa, OK; St. Paul, MN; and Dallas, TX; highlighting the troubling rate of local police calls, the fiscal impact those calls have on local police departments, and the failure of Walmart to use its $14 billion in profits to address security issues at its stores.

The campaign also included a series of grassroots actions in over 20 cities across the country. MCAW and local community partners in Phoenix, St. Paul, Chicago, Dallas, Tulsa, Tampa, and Milwaukee called for Walmart to disclose their crime-tracking database. Providing database information to the public will allow employees, customers, and the community to hold Walmart accountable for its security funding decisions.

"Walmart must stop asking local police departments to do their job and taxpayers to subsidize their security," said Randy Parraz, campaign director of MCAW. "This is not an issue of whether Walmart can do more, it is about why they are putting profits ahead of the community. The simple solution is for Walmart to do what is right and invest more in under-staffed stores and security."

Over the past year, there have been a multitude of local and national news stories covering the amount of crime at Walmart

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MCAW PUSHES FOR POLICY CHANGE AT 3 WALMART STORES IN VIRGINIA: STOP LOCKING UP AFRICAN AMERICAN HAIR PRODUCTS

On December 20th, MCAW launched a television ad in the Suffolk, Va., media market that highlighted Walmart’s hurtful practice of locking up African American hair products at three stores in Virginia. The ad asked viewers to call Suffolk Mayor Linda Johnson and tell her to demand Walmart stop this practice. In addition, petitions sponsored by MCAW, as well as by the AFL-CIO and ColorofChange.org, have received over 20,000 signatures (and counting).

At a Dec. 7th press conference, MCAW Campaign Director Randy Parraz said, “Even one Walmart store doing this is too many! African American shoppers in Suffolk should not be forced to have a different shopping experience. Respectfully, we are urging the community and Mayor Johnson to help us change Walmart for the better.”

Also on Dec. 7th, MCAW organizers Anahi Tapia and Tiffany Beroid spoke in front of the Suffolk City Mayor and Council informing the leaders of the community’s response to Walmart’s hurtful practice.

NATIONWIDE CAMPAIGN EXPOSES (continued from page 1)

and the burden it places on communities and local police departments.

Among the shocking statistics:
- According to a Tampa Bay Times analysis, law enforcement logged nearly 16,800 calls in one year to 4 Florida county Walmarts. That’s 2 calls an hour, every hour, every day.
- An analysis from Bloomberg News found that in just one year, police were called to one of Tulsa Oklahoma’s four Walmarts just under 2,000 times, while only called to one of the city’s four Targets around 300 times.
- In 2015, police responded to two Minneapolis-area Walmarts 1,126 times.
- Across five Texas cities last year, there was a combined 6,077 calls to Walmart. A Bloomberg article from August 2016 found that Walmart maintains a crime-tracking database used to assign each store a “risk score,” based on the likelihood of different types of crime occurring there. The retailer uses these risk scores to set the level of security spending at each store. However, Walmart does not make the databases or scores public. During the multi-week campaign, MCAW held press events that called on Walmart to release the database.

“If Walmart truly cares about our local communities, the stores’ customers and employees, they would make this database available to the American people,” added Parraz.
RECENT VICTORIES

Local 400 and community supporters held a press conference outside of Suffolk City Hall in December demanding that Walmart stop their hurtful practice of locking up African American hair products. Because of our work, two out of three Suffolk City, Virginia Walmart stores have now ended this practice.

Local 1776 along with MCAW and Pennsylvania State Representatives Morgan Cephas, Jared Solomon, and Eddie Day Pashinski held a press conference at the state capitol in Harrisburg in early January announcing that “Christmas” came a decade late for over 187,000 PA Walmart workers who were victims of wage theft from 1998-2006. UFCW Local 23 and 1776 partnered with MCAW to handbill multiple Walmart stores in Pittsburgh, Harrisburg, Scranton, and Philadelphia (thank your support!). MCAW also aired informational TV ads announcing Walmart’s $241 million settlement and that eligible workers could now receive compensation for their stolen wages — a victory for workers everywhere.

ST. LOUIS AND LOCAL 655 STAND UP TO STAN KROENKE AND WALMART: THINK BEFORE YOU SHOP

St. Louis Local 655 debuted a new commercial over the holidays that encouraged shoppers to buy their holiday groceries from one of the three local union food chains instead of Walmart stores — where Stan Kroenke made his fortune and abandoned St. Louis in the process. MCAW agrees that it’s important now, more than ever, to support workers who fight to improve wages and other benefits in the workplace. Kroenke is the owner of the Rams NFL team that moved from St. Louis to Los Angeles last year. Kroenke made a significant portion of his fortune by building Walmart stores across the country as a real-estate developer, and is married to a Walmart heiress. Local 655 hoped the commercial encouraged football fans and responsible shoppers to consider the impact of where they spend their money on groceries, particularly ahead of the holiday shopping season.
WALMART’S VALUES ARE SAME AS TRUMP’S VALUES

MCAW kicked off the “Trump’s Values Are Walmart’s Values” National Week of Action on Saturday, Oct. 22, with a rally in Cincinnati, OH.

Events in Washington, D.C.; Anaheim, CA; St. Paul, MN; Chicago, IL; Dallas, TX; Phoenix, AZ; and New York, NY, followed, and also demonstrated how America’s largest employer, Walmart, shares many of the same values as Donald Trump.

The rallies demanded that Walmart stop selling products on Walmart.com that promote or financially benefit Donald Trump. Companies such as Macy’s, NBC Universal, NASCAR, Serta and others have already distanced themselves from Trump’s misogynistic, racist and offensive rhetoric. Walmart has not.

The rallies also highlighted the following:

• Similar to Donald Trump’s hypocrisy in promising to “make America great again,” while selling ties and other goods that are manufactured abroad, Walmart promises to invest in buying products made in America, but is still the number one importer of goods in the U.S.
• Trump’s leaked tax documents show that he may have paid no federal income taxes for decades. Walmart uses tax havens to avoid paying additional American taxes.
• Trump has been accused of sexually harassing and mistreating women. In 2001, Walmart was accused of sex discrimination in one of the largest class action lawsuits ever.

The following locals/groups hosted events: UFCW Local 400, 99, 1625, 1000, 540, 653, 75, 1189, 324, 1473, 1546 and Walmart-Free NYC.

The following government officials spoke in support of the action: Ohio State Senator Cecil Thomas, Alderman Ameya Pawar of Chicago’s 47th ward, Cook County, IL Clerk David Orr, D.C. (Shadow) U.S. Representative Franklin Garcia, and California Assemblywoman Sharon Quirk-Silva (65th district).

STATEMENT ON THE 2016 U.S. ELECTION

MCAW released the following statement in response to the United States’ 2016 election:

“First and foremost, we are pleased that as a result of minimum wage referendums, Walmart workers in Arizona, Maine, Washington state, and Colorado are on the path to being paid more for their hard work. Regardless of who is in the White House, we will continue to fight for a better life for the millions of Walmart workers in every state across this country whose economic struggles have been forgotten or ignored.

Make no mistake, over the next four years we will redouble our efforts to hold Walmart responsible for shipping American jobs overseas, contributing to record trade deficits with China and devastating small businesses and communities across this country. Our singular focus is and always will be to change Walmart and America for the better.”
WALMART SETTLES LANDMARK CLASS-ACTION SUIT ALLEGING ANTI-LGBTQ BIAS

MCAW, along with Pride at Work and UFCW OUTreach (a constituency group dedicated to building mutual support between UFCW and the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community and their allies), released a joint statement after Walmart announced a settlement in the Cote et al. v. Wal-Mart Stores Inc. class-action lawsuit. The lawsuit accused the company of discriminating against employees who were married to same-sex spouses by denying their spouses health insurance benefits.

“Actions speak louder than words, and until now, Walmart’s actions regarding LGBTQ workers’ and their spouses’ health benefits were discriminatory and hurtful. We are pleased to hear that Walmart has admitted wrongdoing in Cote et al. v. Walmart Stores, Inc., and that they have agreed to abide by anti-discrimination policies, and to make those who have been discriminated against whole. It is our hope that Walmart accepts how wrong they were so that not one more Walmart worker will have to experience such injustice and bigotry.

We congratulate Jacqueline for her bravery, and we hope she inspires other Walmart workers to come forward and speak up about intolerance. In addition, we hope that Walmart realizes that this is just a start, and that too many of its hard-working Walmart men and women face poverty-level wages, poor benefits and unfair workplaces. Now, more than ever, it is time for Walmart to wake up and change.”

MCAW IN THE NEWS

Our work to expose Walmart’s abuse of local law enforcement resources and Walmart’s hurtful practice towards African American shoppers generated 16 national and over 45 local and state stories. Here are some of our favorite articles and other MCAW stories:

My Turn: How Walmart can stop crime at its stores by Local 99 President James McLaughlin,
The Arizona Republic

Violent Crime Is a Daily Occurrence At Walmart and Now Its Workers Want Better Security,
Fortune Magazine

Activists Emphasize Walmart’s Crime Problem In TV Ads Airing In 4 Cities, The Consumerist

Group claims Tampa Walmart stores call police too often, WFLA Tampa

Walmart Store Gets Backlash for Extra Security Packaging on Black Hair Items, Allure Magazine

Amazon and Walmart are hiring, but how good are these jobs?, CBS News
Making Change at Walmart is planning a busy year ahead with 6 full time organizers making their way across the country, talking to workers, building coalitions, and continuing to expose Walmart’s unfair practices.

One issue we’re bringing to light is the real story behind Walmart’s claim of a $13.75 average, hourly wage for full time employees. With so many workers paid so poorly that they have to rely on food stamps and government programs to get by, it’s about time the true worker wage stories are told.

We also aim to work closely with lawmakers to protect workers and taxpayers from Walmart’s greed.

Thank you for everything you do for the campaign and Walmart workers.

Stay connected with us the following ways:

www.ChangeWalmart.org
FB: @MakingChangeWMT
Twitter: @ChangeWalmart

Special thanks to UFCW Locals 1546 and 540 for lending Darryl Russell and Gonzalo Reyes to the MCAW team!