



TEAMSTERS 320

NEWS RELEASE: UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA USES INTIMIDATION TACTICS AND MISINFORMATION AGAINST THE TEAMSTERS

Teamsters Local 320 Responds to University of Minnesota Statement September 10, 2025

For Immediate Release 09/10/2025

Minneapolis, Minn-

The University issued a press release today attempting to distract from its abhorrent behavior towards its largely immigrant workforce. The University states it “received a report” that picketers threatened to report workers to ICE. Local 320 is aware of no such report or any such conduct. The University’s unsupported allegation defies logic as the workforce on strike is comprised largely of immigrants. Spreading falsehoods through a press release is indicative of the University’s approach to its treatment of its employees and is curious given the University’s internally documented reports of higher levels of discipline against females and employees of color. According to the University’s own data, from 2022-24, there was a 96% increase in disciplinary actions as well as a 64.3% increase in the number of employee discipline. Women make up around 40% of the workforce but receive more than 50% of the suspensions and terminations, with women of color receiving higher rates of discipline. [University of Minnesota Food Service Workers Allege Discrimination and Abuse - Workday Magazine](#).

Today’s press release and the University’s heavy-handed intimidation tactics designed to intimidate union members rights to lawfully picket and protest are troubling and should concern all citizens of the State of Minnesota. Today, several individuals were lawfully picketing and hand billing in a public parking lot in accordance with their rights under the Constitution and PELRA when they were unlawfully arrested in what was clearly an orchestrated attack on the Union’s right to strike by UMN Police and the Hennepin County Sheriff’s Office. They were handcuffed, ziptied, placed into a van and removed from the picket line where they were charged with a crime for daring to engage in a lawful protest. The University’s heavy-handed conduct was captured in multiple videos and the Union is confident the public will see the University’s scare tactics for what they are—an intent by the University to use its police department to intimidate and chill union members in the exercise of their right to lawfully picket.

The University’s actions in treating striking workers unfortunately mirrors the lack of respect showed to these same employees prior to the strike. Despite this, Teamsters local 320 remains committed to reaching an agreement to provide these hard-working university of Minnesota employees wage increases and contract lengths like those of their colleagues.

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