

## Media Advisory

**For Immediate Release:** March 18, 2022

**Date of Virtual Event: March 29, 2022, at 11 am CST**

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## **PRESS BRIEFING: Workers at Blaze Pizza in Minneapolis Win Over \$28,000 in Wage-theft Settlement**

*ROC MN members' victory stands out in an industry known for rampant wage theft violations*

**MINNEAPOLIS, MN** — Former and current workers at Blaze Pizza in Stadium Village will hold a press conference to celebrate an anticipated settlement of over \$28,000 in unpaid wages and liquidated damages. The anticipated settlement on behalf of workers is between the Minneapolis Department of Civil Rights and former owners of Blaze Pizza in Stadium Village.

Join us on **Tuesday, March 29, 2022 at 11 am CST**, as former and current Blaze Pizza workers—along with ROC-Minnesota staff and organizers—will share their stories and perspectives on what this settlement means to them and their families.

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The anticipated settlement comes after workers took action to address wage theft in their workplace. In 2021, after workers filed official complaints, the Minneapolis Department of Civil Rights opened an investigation into the former owners of the Stadium Village Blaze Pizza in Minneapolis.

Last summer, several Blaze Pizza workers reached out to ROC-Minnesota with reports of minimum-wage violations. With support from ROC-Minnesota staff and members, Blaze Pizza workers began to organize with their coworkers and together filed complaints to the City of Minneapolis Labor Standards and Enforcement Division of the Department of Civil Rights.

Because Blaze Pizza is a franchise operating in the city of Minneapolis, it is required to pay workers the full minimum wage that other large businesses are required to pay. Workers have reported bringing the issue of their unpaid wages to management, but Blaze Pizza failed to address it. The anticipated settlement will cover unpaid minimum wages and unpaid sick and safe time wages.

Notably, during the time that wage violations occurred, Blaze Pizza in Minneapolis was owned by Team DHW, LLC. Since the violations were reported by workers, the business has been under new management and workers have reported improved working conditions and corrected wages.

**WHAT:**

Press Conference with Blaze Pizza workers — \$28,000 wage-theft settlement. *The presentation of workers and speakers will be livestreamed on Facebook.*

**WHEN:**

March 29, 2022 (Tuesday), 11:00 am CST

**WHO:**

Sydney Kuran, Blaze Pizza Worker

Aibai Tarrant, Blaze Pizza worker

Robin Wonsley Worlobah, Ward 2 City Council Member

Eli Stein, lead organizer, ROC-MN

Dr. Sekou Siby, president of ROC-United

**WHERE (Via Zoom):**

[REGISTRATION](#) is required in order to get the ZOOM Link.

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