

RAP News

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The Retail Action Project assists retail workers win the wages, working conditions and respect they deserve. RAP is a community project of the Good Old Lower East Side (GOLES).

Retail workers fight back!

Working on Broadway, you may have noticed shoppers strolling around with yellow bags with the narly rat. What most people don't know is how much Yellow Rat Bastard, one of the most popular stores in SOHO, has been living up to its image. Workers earn as low as \$5.25 per hour with long hours and no benefits. There are reports of sexual harassment, verbal abuse, and even some cases of managers assaulting workers. With a serious rat infestation problem, workers are forced to clean up rat feces before folding t-shirts.

The workers of Yellow Rat Bastard are not alone. The owner, Henry Ishay, also offers the same poverty wages and poor working conditions at his other Broadway stores - Antique Orange (364 Broadway), FAT Jeans (648 Broadway), Rubbersole (740 Broadway), Sloppy Joe Dirty Jane (483 Broadway) and Tempo (736 Broadway).

Fed up with the wages, disrespect and unhealthy working conditions, the workers of this SOHO retail chain are fighting back! RAP helped them contact the NYS Attorney General's office about the widespread wage and hour violations and abusive treatment. As a result of these workers uniting and deciding to speak up, the NYS Attorney General's office began an investigation. RAP estimates that the company may now have to pay as much as \$2 million in back wages and commit to improving wages and working conditions!

Elected officials Stringer, Mendez, Gerson, Velasquez support YRB workers

Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer, Councilman Alan Gerson, Councilwoman Rosie Mendez and NYS Congresswoman Nydia Velasquez have all pledged their support for the workers of YRB retail chain. On Thursday, July 13th these elected officials will demonstrate that support at a press conference with community leaders and workers.

RAP is endorsed by: Abounding Grace Church; Association of African Imams; CODA; Cooper Square Committee; Graffiti Community Ministries; Immigrant Rights Committee NWBCCC; Jewish Labor Committee; Judson Memorial Church; NY Labor-Religion Coalition NY, NY; Pentecostal Christian Missionary Church; St. Mark's Church in the Bowery.

RAP Action Alert!

Support fellow retail workers!

Community and religious leaders, elected officials and workers will speak out against the poverty wages, abusive treatment and unhealthy working conditions at Yellow Rat Bastard and seven other affiliated stores.

Demand living wages, benefits and respect for the workers of the YRB retail chain!

Press Conference

Date: Thursday, July 13

Time: Noon

Where: YRB SOHO 478 Broadway

Call 718-924-4882 for more information!

Retail Action Project - RAP!

Unite with other retail workers to fight for a living wage, affordable healthcare, and respect at work.

Phone: 718-924-4882/347-256-4429 Email: rap@goles.org

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RAP is a project of the Good Old Lower East Side (GOLES).

Can't get enough hours?

Forced to work too many hours?

Not paid minimum wage, overtime rate or enough to meet basic needs?

Don't get benefits or raises?

Disrespected by your manager?

Discriminated against or harassed?

Punished with wage deductions or a suspension?

Manager cheating you on commission?

Forced to sell more without earning more?

Overlooked for a promotion?

Have your voice heard!

Join the RAP Collective!

Work with retail workers to improve retail jobs through direct action, legal action, education, community organizing & media outreach.

Call: 718-924-4882

Email: rap@goles.org