



To All Stewards and Strike Captains,

While we hoped it wouldn't have come to this, Stop and Shop's proposals left us with no choice but to walk out today. You each did amazing work, showing strength and leadership in extremely difficult, uncertain circumstances. Your picket lines each looked strong and committed and ready for the difficult work ahead. **250 stores were emptied out and picket lines were set up in only 15 minutes!**

While we certainly hope the strike will not last long, it is important that you prepare to be there for the duration and don't burn yourselves out. Here's a few important points:

- Tomorrow, start a schedule of 6 hour shifts: 6am-12pm, 12pm-6pm, 6pm to store closing, and at least a couple of night crew workers to ensure no trucks deliver. Have people rotate taking breaks so there are always people on the line. All members must sign in! This will be particularly important to ensure they receive the \$100 weekly strike benefits after the first week.
- At the end of the night, always make sure that other than the signs given to the night crew, the rest of the picket signs are safely kept with someone who will be there when the line fully opens in the morning.
- Have everyone file for unemployment by visiting [www.filectui.com](http://www.filectui.com) for CT and for [www.mass.gov](http://www.mass.gov) for MA. The Employer identification number is 7188535000. You will also need to state your name, the name and address of employer, start and end dates and the reason of separation (unfair labor practice strike).
- Other union reps from other locals across the country are coming in overnight to assist so you may be seeing new faces on your lines to assist you starting tomorrow.
- Make sure the picketers dress warm and wear comfortable shoes. Have them bring their families and friends!
- Make sure that each customer who approaches the store is confronted and asked not to shop there and told why you are picketing. This strike will be won or lost based on the support of your customers. Making eye contact and a personal plea is best. We will be distributing leaflets to each store to hand out as well.
- Make sure to approach all truck deliveries and tell them there is a sanctioned strike of the UFCW International Union and they are not to cross your picket line.