

**For Immediate Release****Aug. 18, 2014****Contact: Jamie Horwitz****(202) 549-4921****jhdcp@starpower.net****Sally Davidow****(202) 368-3324****sdavidow@apwu.org**

# Postal Workers, Teachers Turn Up the Heat on Staples

*‘Stop Staples’ Boycott Comes to the Hub as  
Troubled Retailer Releases 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Results*

*Postal Workers to Pass Out Rulers Stamped  
‘Don’t Buy School Supplies at Staples’ in Boston at 10 a.m.  
Teachers to Join Protest at Saugus Staples at 5:30 p.m.*

**BOSTON** – The ‘Don’t Buy Staples’ campaign, organized by the American Postal Workers Union (APWU), will come to the Boston area – home of the troubled retailer – with two events on Wednesday, August 20, the same day the company will release its second quarter results.

### **AM Event, Boston**

**Who:** APWU members and supporters

**What:** Protest against outsourcing of U.S. Postal Service work to Staples  
Postal Workers and supporters to pass out ‘Don’t Buy School Supplies at Staples’ rulers

**When:** Wednesday, August 20 at 10 a.m.

**Where:** Staples at One Washington Mall, Downtown Boston  
(Adjacent to City Hall Plaza, one block from Faneuil Hall)

### **PM Event, Saugus, MA**

**Who:** Members of Lynn Teachers Union, APWU members and supporters

**What:** Protest against outsourcing of U.S. Postal Service work to Staples

**When:** Wednesday, August 20 at 5:30 p.m.

**Where:** Staples store at 444 Broadway, Saugus, MA

In addition to the events listed above, a large rally featuring postal workers and supporters is planned for Wednesday, August 27, on the steps of City Hall plaza. The location is just one block away from the Staples Washington Mall store.

Since January, APWU members and supporters have staged hundreds of protests around the country in front of the office-supply outlets over the retailer's no-bid deal with the U.S. Postal Service that established knock-off post offices in Staples stores.

“Outsourcing postal work to Staples is one of the most ill-conceived ideas the Postal Service has come up with – and that’s saying a lot,” said John Dirzius, Northeast Region Coordinator for the APWU. “Consumers don’t want to turn over their mail to low-paid, barely-trained workers in an unsecured setting. And postal workers don’t want to turn over our jobs to a private company that’s closing stores left and right.”

Staples, facing declining sales and revenue, has announced plans to close 225 stores by the end of 2015. “The Post Office is a public asset, and we’re here to provide a public service – not a backdoor bailout to a struggling private company,” said Bob Dempsey, Vice President of the APWU’s Boston Metro Local. “If it is allowed to continue, this program will lead to the closing of neighborhood post offices.”

USPS and Staples are clearly feeling pressure from the Stop Staples campaign. In July, they announced that they were changing the name of their partnership. However, the USPS has [acknowledged](#) that the newly-renamed program is essentially the same as the old one.

Also in July, both national teacher unions – the National Education Association and the American Federation of Teachers – passed resolutions in support of the Stop Staples campaign, and 2,000 teachers and other AFT supporters protested at the Staples Center in Los Angeles. School supplies are a key market for Staples, accounting for up to one-third of the company’s sales, according to some estimates.

For more information about the campaign to stand up for quality service and good-paying jobs, visit [Stop Staples.com](http://StopStaples.com).

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*The American Postal Workers Union represents 200,000 employees of the United States Postal Service, and is affiliated with the AFL-CIO.*