

Apple Inc workers in Maryland, U.S. vote to join a union



The Apple Inc logo is seen hanging at the entrance to the Apple store on 5th Avenue in Manhattan [File: Mike Segar/ Reuters]

Baltimore, June 20 (RHC)-- Apple Inc workers in the city of Baltimore, Maryland in the United States have voted to join a union, becoming the first retail employees of the tech giant to unionize in the country.

More than 100 workers in Towson near Baltimore “have overwhelmingly voted to join” the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM), the union said on its website.

The local workers, forming the Coalition of Organized Retail Employees (CORE), “have the support of a solid majority of our coworkers”, they wrote in a letter to Apple CEO Tim Cook.

“This is something we do not to go against or create conflict with our management,” they wrote, stressing that their driving motivation was to seek “rights we do not currently have”.

IAM welcomed CORE’s “historic victory” and urged Cook to let the unionizing employees fast-track efforts to secure a contract at the Towson location.

“I applaud the courage displayed by CORE members at the Apple store in Towson for achieving this historic victory,” said IAM International President Robert Martinez Jr. “They made a huge sacrifice for thousands of Apple employees across the nation who had all eyes on this election.”

He added: “This victory shows the growing demand for unions at Apple stores and different industries across our nation.”

An Apple spokesperson, responding to the Reuters news agency request for comment, said by email that the company had “nothing to add at this time”.

Unionization efforts are gaining momentum at some large US corporations, including Amazon.com Inc and Starbucks Corp.

Apple workers in Atlanta who were seeking to unionize withdrew their request last month, claiming intimidation.

Some current and former Apple workers last year began criticizing the company’s working conditions online, using the hashtag #AppleToo.

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