

COMMERCE

Trump Las Vegas challenges workers' union decision

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Exterior of Trump International Hotel Las Vegas

By STAFF REPORTS

After a majority of its workers voted to unionize, Trump International Hotel Las Vegas filed an objection, according to the organization Unite Here.

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Hotel staff chose to be represented by Unite Here affiliates Culinary Workers Local 226 and Bartenders Local 165, and while there may have been objections from the property, federal law requires that once a union has been selected by workers, the employer needs to meet and bargain with the labor organization. The culinary union is now calling upon the hotel to negotiate a contract with staff.

Contract negotiation

More than 500 employees at the Trump hotel were eligible to vote in the National Labor Relations Board election on Dec. 4 and 5.

In June 2014, Unite Here says five employees were suspended for wearing union buttons. The culinary union filed charges against the hotel with the NLRB, the result of which was the reinstatement of the workers with back pay.

A year later, the union brought new charges against the hotel, claiming that workers had been denied their right to participate in union activities, saying they had faced retaliation in the form of threats from management, assault and verbal abuse.

This past August, the NLRB also brought charges against the property for denying workers their federally protected rights, including suppressing their free speech and taking part in unfair interrogations and surveillance. This included the case of a pro-union mother of three who was allegedly fired as a warning to her coworkers.



DJT Lounge Bar at Trump Las Vegas

Trump Las Vegas admitted its free speech policies violated the law and rescinded them.

Other non-gaming properties in the city do have unionized workers, including the Four Seasons Hotel Las Vegas.

The property, co-owned by Donald Trump and Phillip Ruffin, is not the first Trump brand hotel to show an interest in unionizing.

Earlier this year, Trump International Hotel Toronto joined Unite Here, ratifying its contract one week ago.

Other luxury travel brands have faced labor disputes with their employees.

Berkshire Hathaway's NetJets is placing new executives at the helm as it works to resolve labor disputes with its pilots.

Jordan Hansell, who was the private aviation company's CEO and chairman, has stepped down from his positions, and Adam Johnson will take over both roles immediately. While not mentioned as the direct cause of the turnover, the current dispute with a union may have had a hand in this change in leadership ([see story](#)).

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