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Statement from Local 881 UFCW Regarding Dominick's Store Closings

On Thursday, Safeway announced that it will dispose of its 72 Dominick's stores and exit the Chicago market in early 2014. Local 881 UFCW represents more than 1,300 grocery clerks in 19 Chicago stores.

Local 881 President Ronald E. Powell stated that he has been informed that Jewel Food Stores will purchase four of the Dominick's stores. "Local 881 represents all of the Jewel clerks throughout the Chicago metro area, and will continue to represent these Dominick's employees once the transaction with Jewel has been completed," Powell said.

As for the other Dominick's store represented by Local 881, Powell said, "We don't know yet the status of those stores. But, once we know who the new owners are, Local 881 will sit down and negotiate a collective bargaining agreement that will be fair to the new employers and, importantly, will fairly compensate the employees who will be charged with building the business." Powell stated that the Dominick's employees have been working without a new contract for one year.

Finally, Powell said, "Local 881 will also sit down soon with Dominick's to negotiate the effects of their exit from the Chicago market on our members."

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Local 881 UFCW represents 34,000 members employed in retail food and drug stores throughout Illinois and Northwest Indiana, as well as a professional division comprised of health and nursing home workers, barbers and cosmetologists, and workers in other retail and service industries. Among the companies under contract with Local 881 are Jewel Food Stores, Osco Drug, Dominick's Finer Foods, Mariano's Fresh Market, CVS Pharmacy, Kroger, Schnucks, and many smaller chains and independent stores, as well as nursing homes and other business establishments. Local 881 is among the largest affiliates of the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union, which represents 1.3 million members in the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico.