UFCW
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Wine, Liquor & Distillery Workers Union Local 1-D

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DONALD RUTAN
President

GLEN CARTER
Secretary - Treasurer

Important Notice to Our Members

Re: Closure of Empire Merchants Metro | November 25, 2026

Brothers and Sisters,

We share your shock and sadness. On November 24, 2026, Empire Merchants announced it will liquidate and close Empire Metro, with employment ending February 28, 2027, or within 14 days after. We are deeply sorry for what this means for you and your families, and we want you to know we are standing with you.

What the notice says

- The closure is permanent, and all positions will be eliminated.
- The company says bumping rights will not apply because there are no remaining positions.
- It is intended as notice under federal WARN and NYWARN.
- You may be eligible for unemployment insurance and NYS Department of Labor re-employment services.

What the notice does not say

It does not mention severance, accrued vacation or sick pay, health coverage after separation, or pension and benefit fund obligations. We are demanding answers on all of these and will pursue effects bargaining under our collective bargaining agreements.

What you should do now

- Keep copies of this notice and your pay and benefit records.
- Do not sign any release or agreement without talking to your union representative first.
- Direct questions to your steward or the UFCW Local 1-D office. We will update you as we learn more.

We are sorry this is the news we have to share. We will keep fighting for what you have earned.

In solidarity,

Donald Rutan III
8402 18th Ave
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