



For Immediate Release
August 23, 2022

Contact: Jon Pierce
Pierce Communications
518.221.1186
jon@albanypr.com

Capital Roots forced to cancel Autumn Evening event

Troy, N.Y. – Capital Roots has announced the cancellation of its Autumn Evening fundraising event, scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 15, due to the disruption in the organization’s operations following the Board of Directors’ voluntary recognition of Service Employees International Union Local 200 United on July 5, 2022.

“After much consideration, we have made the difficult decision to cancel the Autumn Evening event. This decision was not made lightly. The event is critical to raising funds that enable us to fulfill our mission, and members of our community will unfortunately suffer as a result,” said board member Anoush Koroghlian-Scott.

“Despite us moving quickly (in 19 days, including two weekends and a federal holiday) to recognize a portion of the employees’ desire to unionize, people associated with the union undertook an aggressive campaign to shut down one of the organization’s important fundraisers by pressuring chefs, bakers, farmers, sponsors, and volunteers to not participate, making moving forward insurmountable. They even publicly announced their intent to picket the event, and their actions frightened people away,” said Koroghlian-Scott.

For 15 years, Autumn Evening has been a significant fundraiser for Capital Roots and has helped the organization generate much needed funds to support many of the programs that are not funded by grants. These programs help meet the organization’s vision of creating a community where land and fresh food empower physical, social, and economic health.

“It’s a shame that their actions disrupted Autumn Evening,” said Capital Roots’ Chief Executive Officer Amy Klein. “To protect the reputation of our volunteer contributors, our only option was to avoid putting them in the middle of these very personal attacks. The cancellation is certain to have a negative impact on our programming and services and that will impact the people in our communities who need our help the most.”

About Capital Roots: *For almost 50 years, Capital Roots has worked to reduce the impact of poor nutrition on public health in New York’s Capital Region by organizing community gardens; providing healthy food access; offering nutritional and horticultural education for all ages; and coordinating urban greening programs in Albany, Rensselaer, Schenectady, and southern Saratoga counties.*

##