

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2010

2nd Candidate To Challenge Hoffa in 2011

Sandy Pope, president of a Teamsters local in New York City and one of the most prominent women in the union, announced on Monday that she would challenge James P. Hoffa for the presidency.

Mr. Hoffa, who has the most famous name in organized labor, has headed the International Brotherhood of Teamsters since 1999. The election will be in October 2011.

In 2006, Ms. Pope ran unsuccessfully for secretary-treasurer, the No. 2 position, in the union of 1.3 million members. She was the leading vote getter in running against Mr. Hoffa's slate that year.

Ms. Pope has long been associated with a dissident group, Teamsters for a Democratic Union.

As president of Teamsters Local 805, a 1,200-member local based in Long Island City, Ms. Pope led a 2007 effort to unionize workers at FreshDirect, the online food delivery company. But the effort was derailed when immigration agents began an inspection there, causing many of the 900 workers to quit.

Ms. Pope, a former truck driver, warehouse worker and steel hauler who joined the union in 1978, will face a difficult battle against Mr. Hoffa.

Fred Gegare, a Teamsters leader in Green Bay, Wis., and a member of the parent union's executive board, has also announced that he will challenge Mr. Hoffa.