

Disorderly conduct charges dismissed for 65 strike supporters

By Randall Beach
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NEW HAVEN — Sixty-five Yale strike supporters had their disorderly conduct charges dismissed Friday in New Haven Superior Court and five others had their cases continued.

The five who must return to court Nov. 14 have two charges of disorderly conduct rather than one, said their attorney, Hugh F. Keefe.

Included within that group are Laura Smith, president of the Yale workers' Local 34, and Bob Proto, president of Yale's Local 35. Keefe said those who had their cases dismissed Friday included 14 ministers and James Griffin, president of the state

NAACP. Those 15 were represented by attorney Tara Knight; Keefe represented the rest.

Another prominent figure among the 65 who had their cases dismissed was Andrew Stern, national president of the Service Employees International Union.

Keefe said he and prosecutor David Newman worked out the agreement not to press charges. Superior Court Judge Bernadette Conway presided.

Keefe is representing a total of about 250 people arrested in peaceful sit-ins across New Haven during the Yale strike in August and September.

Last week 39 other strike supporters had their disorderly conduct charges dismissed.