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RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF PUBLIC ACCESS TELEVISION IN SF

Whereas, public access programming in San Francisco has provided a viable vehicle for labor and other independent media producers to cablecast relevant television programming from an alternative point of view and has in fact been the primary forum for regular labor programming in San Francisco and throughout the United States; and

Whereas, the future of public access is threatened due to expiring franchise agreements and the new statewide Digital Infrastructure and Video Competition Act of 2006 (DIVCA) which eliminated local control and authority and will result in public access defunding; and

Whereas, San Francisco Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi has introduced a resolution calling for reform of Public, Education and Government (PEG) funding in order to ensure funding of public access continues by calling on the San Francisco Congressional delegation to allow states and municipalities to determine how best to utilize PEG support; and

Whereas, the public access channels in San Francisco have been managed by the San Francisco Community Television Corporation, a non-profit founded in 1987, of which the San Francisco Labor Council was a co-convenor and which the Mayor recently recognized for its management ability by proclaiming January 6, 2009 Community Television day; and

Whereas, public access serves the entire community and is a critical workforce development site providing significant media services and training to marginalized and disenfranchised communities. It is also the primary local television outlet for San Francisco community groups and individuals involved with labor, youth, seniors, the disabled, faith, culture, ethnic diversity, politics, social justice, the peace movement, the environment, the arts and many more,

Therefore be it Resolved that the SFLC goes on record in support of Supervisor Mirkarimi's resolution urging reform of PEG funding, signs on to the Save Our Station Coalition and that the SFLC recognizes the urgency and necessity to secure an adequate and sustainable funding stream for public access programming.

Submitted by Tami Bryant, SEIU 1000, and adopted by the San Francisco Labor Council on January 12, 2009.

Respectfully,

Tim Paulson
Executive Director

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