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Resolution Opposing Contracting Out & In Support of City Workers & Services

Whereas, the Mayor of the City and County of San Francisco has proposed as part of the 2009-10 City budget to contract out work done by City and County Workers to private contractors for 1) citywide janitorial services under the City Administrator; 2) health services at San Francisco Jail; 3) security services for the Asian Art Museum and the Fine Arts Museum; 4) food service in Juvenile Hall for the Department of Juvenile Probation; and 5) security services at Department of Public Health hospitals and clinics; and

Whereas the Mayor of the City and County of San Francisco has proposed to 1) lay-off and deskill 460 Certified Nursing Assistants to Patient Care Assistants, resulting in a pay cut of nearly 25% for a group of workers that are primarily women, raising significant Comparable Worth issues; 2) proposed to lay-off nearly half of the Recreation Directors leaving children and youth without programming services; 3) lay-off all Human Services Agency City and County workers who provide essential safety net services, and rehire them part-time at 37.5 hours a week; 4) lay-off over 400 Department of Public Health City Workers, leaving Healthy Families at risk; and 4) significantly cut non-profit agencies in the Department of Public Health, the Department of Building Inspection, the Department of Children, Youth, and Families, and the Human Services Agency that provide essential safety net services to the city; and

Whereas, the SF Labor Council has consistently opposed contracting out of public services to private contractors because the Council understands the importance of an experienced, dedicated public- sector workforce and the dangers of privatization. Contracting out often results in higher costs, poorer service, increased opportunities for corruption and diminished government flexibility, control and accountability. The quality of service can deteriorate when profit is the prime motivation in service delivery, and the local employment base is eroded when good jobs are replaced with low-wage jobs; and

Whereas, the SF Labor Council has consistently supported equitable pay for women, otherwise known as Comparable Worth, in order to address the wage gap between men and women. Women's wages today are still only about 66% of men's wages, and jobs traditionally done by women have been systematically undervalued. By deskilling the classification of Certified Nursing Assistants, work primarily performed by women, the City and County of San Francisco is perpetuating sex-based pay inequity in violation of local Comparable Worth laws; and

Whereas, the SF Labor Council values the work of community-based non-profits and recognizes the importance of the services that these organizations provide to keep the safety net of services intact in a time when these services are desperately needed. Unemployment rates are high, homelessness has increased dramatically, especially for families, and cuts to basic services such as these undermine our ability to keep those who are in need from falling through the net; and

Whereas, while the SF Labor Council praises SEIU 1021's passage of the tentative agreement that puts off until November 15th the contracting out proposals, the lay-offs of DPH, HSA, and 300 CNA's, the tentative agreement does not prevent the lay-offs of the Recreation Directors and HSA workers during an unprecedented economic recession, and does allow for 88 CNA's to be laid off and deskilled,

Therefore Be It Resolved that the San Francisco Labor Council strongly opposes contracting out of city services; perpetuating pay inequity in violation of Comparable Worth principles; laying off Recreation Directors and City workers from the Human Services Agency; and the massive cuts to community-based non-profits, particularly our union non-profits; and

Therefore Be it Further Resolved that the SF Labor Council urges the Mayor to rescind the proposals to contract out and lay-off workers and to pursue revenue measures for the fall ballot in order to avert these actions; and

Therefore Be it Further Resolved that the SF Labor Council urges the Budget Committee of the Board of Supervisors to reject these proposals and work with all due diligence to find alternate solutions to the local budget crisis, such as rehiring the Recreation Directors, the HSA workers, and the 88 deskilled CNA's; and

Therefore Be it Finally Resolved that the SF Labor Council urges the Budget Committee of the Board of Supervisors to treat non-profit cuts similarly to the union proposals, and delay their cuts until after November 15th, as it will result in substantial cuts in essential City services and loss of jobs.

Submitted by Robert Haaland, SEIU 1021, and adopted unanimously by the San Francisco Labor Council on June 8, 2009.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tim Paulson", with a long horizontal line extending to the left.

Tim Paulson
Executive Director