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Tim Paulson

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Walter L. Johnson

Resolution to Build a Powerful Nationwide Movement to Save the People's Post Office

Whereas, in view of the devastating attacks on the Postal Service that have been announced by the Postmaster General – which threaten to eliminate 220,000 living-wage postal jobs from our communities close 250 mail processing centers and 3,700 post offices, mostly in poor and rural areas degrade service standards and delay the mail by a minimum of 1 to 3 days eliminate 6-day delivery and curtail door-to-door delivery of the mail, among many other proposed cutbacks – altogether threatening the very survival of the people's Post Office which for over 200 years has provided universal mail service at uniform rates to every part of the United States, and has the support of the great majority of our people; and

Whereas, the Post Office receives no federal tax money. Its total income is derived from the labor and skill of hundreds of thousands of postal workers who serve millions of customers daily [and also operate the nation's largest fleet of trucks]. The Post Office is a strategic "multiplier industry" in transportation and communications, with up to 8 million workers in related industries depending directly or indirectly on the USPS for their livelihoods; and

Whereas, the postal system continues to thrive despite competition from the internet, and despite the severe economic downturn. Postal revenues just about matched expenses over the last four years – until they slapped the USPS with an unprecedented \$5.5 Billion a year charge to pre-fund retiree health benefits, and drained away an additional \$50-70 Billion by over-funding postal pensions (according to government reports). This is a manufactured crisis, providing PMG Donahoe and the richest 1% with their phony arguments that the postal system is broke – and preparing the way for an attempt to sabotage, dismantle and privatize this trillion dollar industry and run it for private profit; and

Whereas, the postal system belongs to the people. To safeguard our heritage, and ensure that the interests of the people are being protected, the Post Office needs to be publicly owned and run in the public interest.

Therefore be it resolved, that the San Francisco Labor Council encourage the formation, in cities and towns throughout the country, of Community/Labor Coalitions to Save Postal Jobs and Services – to build a powerful nationwide movement to defeat privatization, maintain living-wage jobs, expand postal services, and save the Post Office as a public entity operating in the public interest;

And be it finally resolved, that the Council join with local APWU and NALC affiliates and community groups in building such a Community/Labor Coalition in San Francisco, and encourage other affiliated unions, Bay Area Labor Councils, California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO and Change to Win to take similar initiatives.

Submitted by Vicky Sawicki, NALC 214, and adopted unanimously by the San Francisco Labor Council on May 14, 2012.

Respectfully,

Tim Paulson
Executive Director

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