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Resolution in Support of First Responders

Whereas, police and fire services are a fundamental cornerstone of civil society; and

Whereas, the breath of police and governmental authority in establishing domestic tranquility under the rule of law without infringing on citizens and residents rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness continues as a central theme of legislation, discourse, and honest debate throughout the United States; and

Whereas, San Francisco Police Officers and the San Francisco Police Department, in an unparallel manner, work closely with the San Francisco Labor Council and other community and political groups to facilitate peaceful assemblies, including acts of civil disobedience; and

Whereas, San Francisco firefighters and police officers are ready and able, every day of the year, to put their lives on the line for San Francisco citizens and residents; and

Whereas, the safety and security of our city depends on the commitment of our first responders to put themselves in harms way; and

Whereas, during the past five years 790 police officers and 443 firefighters made the supreme sacrifice while ensuring the safety of their communities throughout the United States; and

Whereas, since San Francisco's earliest days, 102 San Francisco police officers have fallen in the line of duty; and

Whereas, last year alone, San Francisco firefighters responded to 73,000 emergency calls; and

Whereas, police officers and firefighters are making dramatic strides to match the diversity of San Francisco with police officer nonwhite ranks growing from 7.5% in 1972 to 40% today and San Francisco Firefighters being the most diverse force in the nation with a 48% nonwhite population and both departments being led by a growing number of female officers and a growing number of out- of –the-closet LGBT First Responders; and

Whereas, SFPD Safety Resource Officers throughout the city are ensuring safer learning environments and providing valuable resources to school staff and youth to prevent and solve problems within the school and foster positive relationships between youth and police officers; and

Whereas, fire fighter visits to schools and field trips to neighborhood fire houses ensure staff are prepared for fire emergencies and students become fire safety smart; and
Whereas, the perception and reality of public school educators as First Responders since

the terrible events in Newtown Connecticut, is now heightened for school workers and the public;
and

Whereas, police and fire join educators to serve many of the same people in working-class and middle-class communities including vulnerable children and adults; and

Whereas, all First Responders do a job which is becoming demonstrably harder with the ongoing recession and public sector cuts; and

Whereas, police officers, firefighters and educators are public servants like any others with occupational and personnel flaws and should be the subject of oversight and justified discipline in accordance with due process procedures; and

Whereas, misdeeds and abuse of authority by the few must never be behavior accepted by our Labor Council; we applaud the hard work and dedication to our city by the overwhelming majority of conscientious and hardworking First Responders; and

Whereas, police and fire face the same cuts as other public servants, have the same difficult jobs and face the same attacks on our work; and

Whereas, San Francisco firefighters and police officers join us in the same struggle to maintain and advance wages, benefits and working conditions of our members; and

Whereas, SF POA joined with the San Francisco labor movement to defeat the Prop B attack on public employee pensions and benefits; and

Whereas, the hard won right to due process on the job, is fundamental to dignity and job security.

Therefore Be it Resolved that the San Francisco Labor Council seek to build stronger bonds of solidarity with the San Francisco Police Officers Association; and

Be it Finally Resolved that the San Francisco Labor Council sends letters from Executive Director Tim Paulson recognizing the contributions of the San Francisco Police Officers Association and San Francisco Firefighters local 798 to our labor movement and to the civic life of our great city.

Submitted by Dennis Kelly, UESF, and adopted by the Executive Committee of the San Francisco Labor Council on March 4, 2013.

Respectfully,



Tim Paulson
Executive Director

OPEIU3 AFL-CIO 11