



Resolution to Support Postal Workers; Boycott Staples

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Whereas, the U.S. Postal Service has a no-bid, sweetheart deal with the big-box chain Staples to operate "postal" counters in more than 80 stores in four states, and is considering expanding this operation to more than 1,500 Staples stores across the United States; and

Whereas, these "postal" counters are staffed by low-wage, high-turnover Staples employees with little training and no credentials to handle U.S. mail. The Postal Service and Staples are refusing to staff these counters with unionized, uniformed USPS employees who have the training and experience to properly handle U.S. mail, and who have sworn an oath to uphold the security and sanctity of the mail and the highest standards of public service; and

Whereas, non-union "postal" jobs at Staples are replacing living-wage, union jobs of Postal Service employees, as the Postmaster General reduces staffing and hours, closing and selling off community post offices; and

Whereas, consumers are increasingly concerned about identity theft at large retail chains, and privatizing the handling of U.S. mail will jeopardize the privacy, sanctity and security of the mail; and

Whereas, instead of offering lower quality service and selling off public assets, the Postal Service can and should use its unmatched nationwide network of people and facilities to better serve the public with expanded hours and new services, such as low-cost postal banking, which would be a tremendous benefit for our people; and

Whereas, along with other public employees we are fighting a common battle to oppose privatization of public services in schools, colleges, hospitals and other public institutions, as well as the Post Office; and

Whereas, the AFL-CIO Executive Council has endorsed the American Postal Workers Union boycott of all Staples retail stores, and Staples website and branded products; and

Whereas, according to the Boston Globe, "Doody, the Staples executive, said the company does not want to get in the middle of the fight between the post office and its union, but acknowledged the issue could become a problem if more unions backed the postal workers. He said the retailer will continue to evaluate the situation to determine whether the negative backlash is worth the benefits of the partnership,"

Therefore be it Resolved that the San Francisco Labor Council joins the American Postal Workers Union and AFL-CIO in urging all our members, friends and family not to shop at Staples stores, and to spread the boycott widely.

Submitted by NALC 214 and adopted unanimously by the San Francisco Labor Council on June 9, 2014.

Respectfully,

Tim Paulson
Executive Director

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