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Statement about the Ongoing Events in Ferguson, Missouri

Resolved, that the San Francisco Labor Council adopt the following statement about the ongoing events in Ferguson, Missouri:

"Fair-minded people from all walks of life are deeply concerned and outraged by the killing of unarmed African-American teenager Michael Brown at the hands of police officer Darren Wilson. There is no justification for this young man's death.

"Police on the scene refused to obtain emergency medical help and left the 18- year-old's body lying in the street for hours after his death. The events following the killing are also most disturbing. In response to the protests, local police launched a military-style crack-down that included armored vehicles and machine guns aimed at protesters. Several reporters were arrested.

"Unions stand for good living-wage jobs for all workers, respect for and equality of all people, and justice in the workplace and in the neighborhoods in which we live. Union members live and work in communities across the nation, including Ferguson. At a time when we are reaching out to people throughout the nation to defend the public Postal Service and good union jobs, and to organize the unorganized into unions, we must also stand with our communities. As Martin Luther King said, 'Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.'

"Rev. William Barber of North Carolina's NAACP, leader of the Moral Mondays Movement, uplifted the recent American Postal Workers Union national convention with his wise words: Labor rights and Civil Rights must be united in the same struggle. So it must be in Ferguson, MO.

"We urge our members and the union movement to speak out, peacefully protest, and demand justice for Michael Brown's family and community. We seek an end to the militarization of local police forces. We seek a new day, where execution- style killings of unarmed African-American teenagers such as Trayvon Martin and Michael Brown take place no more."

(Adapted from 8/21/14 statement by the American Postal Workers Union national leadership)

Submitted by NALC 214 and adopted by the San Francisco Labor Council on September 7, 2014.

Respectfully,

Tim Paulson
Executive Director

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