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Tim Paulson

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38

VP for Community Activities
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OPEIU 3

VP for Political Activities
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2121

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OPEIU 3

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Vince Courtney
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IAM 1414

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Plumbers 38

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ILWU 6

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USWW

Michael Theriault
SF Building Trades Council

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Sign & Display 510

Sergeant at Arms
Hene Kelly
CARA

Trustees
Ron Lewis, IBEW 6
David Williams, SEIU 1021
Claire Zvanski, IFPTE 21

MAY HOPE PREVAIL IN GREECE AND EUROPE

Whereas, Greece has been subjected to extreme austerity measures for the past five years by the “troika” (the European Commission, the International Monetary Fund, and the European Central Bank) that have resulted in more than 25 percent unemployment and a contraction of the economy by 25 percent, thereby making it even more difficult for Greece to pay back its loans; and

Whereas, the austerity measures have focused almost entirely on the Greek working class by lowering the minimum wage, lowering wages, undermining the right of unions to engage in collective bargaining, laying off of state workers, reducing pensions, and imposing regressive taxes; and

Whereas, the austerity measures have avoided targeting the rich, who have been notoriously delinquent in paying their taxes; and

Whereas, Greece is suffering a humanitarian crisis where people do not have enough to eat, they have suffered mass evictions, and they have lost the most basic amenities such as health care and electricity, all resulting in a heightened suicide rate; and

Whereas, economists such as Nobel Prize-winning Paul Krugman have described this austerity program as an “economic and human nightmare,” making the Greek economy “worse than before the program started;” and

Whereas, the Greek people are overwhelmingly against these austerity measures; and

Whereas, the radical left Syriza Party was recently elected to head up the Greek government because of its adamant opposition to any additional austerity measures; and

Whereas, the Syriza government and the “troika” are currently deadlocked in negotiations with the “troika” insisting on additional austerity measures while the Syriza representatives are refusing to accept them because they will hurt the working class even more and because they will push the Greek economy into an even deeper depression; and

Whereas, AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka has gone on record supporting the Syriza government’s rejection of what he termed “the failed austerity policy;”

Therefore Be It Resolved that the San Francisco Labor Council supports the Syriza government’s rejection of the austerity measures, and supports its call for the restoration of the minimum wage, the rehiring of laid off government workers, full restoration of labor rights, and its aim to establish economic justice in general; and



Therefore Be It Finally Resolved that this resolution be sent to the Syriza government, the General Confederation of Greek Workers, the California Federation of Labor, the AFL-CIO, Change to Win, and independent unions such as the N.E.A and the U.E.

Submitted by Ann Robertson, CFA; Alan Benjamin, OPEIU 3; Kathy Setian, IFPTE 20; Rodger Scott, AFT 2121; Allan Fisher, AFT 2121; Galina Gerasimova, AFT 2121; Dave Welsh, NALC 214; and Carl Finamore, Local Lodge 1781 IAMAW and adopted unanimously by the San Francisco Labor Council on June 8, 2015.

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

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