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Resolution in Support of the “Black Lives Matter” Movement

Whereas, the San Francisco Labor Council upholds the ideals of equal justice under the law, racial justice and human dignity for all; and

Whereas, the recent deaths of unarmed African- Americans and too many others, including in our Latino communities, compel questioning of whether or not equal justice under the law is possible for young men and women of color – particularly poor, young men and women of color; and

Whereas, these deaths are indicative of a growing social-economic division threatening the current and future well-being of our communities of color; and

Whereas, we experience the toxic impact of the intersection of racism and concentration of poverty, and incidents of racial profiling are still a very serious issue; and

Whereas, while we recognize there have been positive strides within police departments across the nation to engage in constructive dialogue and good faith efforts to improve relations between officers and communities of color and young people, there are still problems that exist and improvements that are needed in order to protect lives, particularly because of numerous national examples of police using deadly force on unarmed people, especially people of color, which we strongly condemn; and

Whereas, while we recognize that SFPD is the most diverse urban police force in the nation and that most police officers carry out the mission to protect the public in a manner that is honorable and professional; and

Whereas, we express solidarity with the thousands of protestors in the Bay Area and throughout the nation who are peacefully expressing their outrage and frustration at the deaths of unarmed African and Latino Americans by law enforcement officers; and

Whereas, we profoundly believe and insist that the lives of black students and workers matter, and that all black and Latino lives matter, and we also believe that the growing divide between “haves and have nots” in American society undermines the realization of that belief in the actual workings of our institutions, our schools and economy,

Therefore Be It Resolved that we encourage San Francisco Labor Council members to examine the concepts of equal justice under the law, racial justice, and “institutional racism”; and

Be it Further Resolved that the San Francisco Labor Council, in the belief that all lives matter, support Black Lives Matter forums, community meetings and peaceful demonstrations; and



Be it Further Resolved that the San Francisco Labor Council reach out to Chief Greg Suhr and the Police Officers Association to promote continuing dialogue between workers and police officers in support of our young people in our schools, workplaces, union halls, and communities; and

Be it Finally Resolved that the San Francisco Labor Council join with other labor and community groups to call for the creation of a national model for community policing and well-funded, thoughtful programs that provide marginalized young people access to academic and career programs, and an end to institutionalized racism in our society.

Submitted by Dennis Kelly, Susan Solomon, and Ken Tray of UESF; Ann Robertson, CFA; Dolores Preza, SEIU 1000; and Conny Ford, OPEIU 3, and adopted 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, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Tim Paulson
Executive Director