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Resolution to Defend the Right of Journalists and Other Members of the Public to Attend Meetings of the California Health and Safety and Workers' Compensation Commission

Whereas the right to cover public meetings at state public facilities is critical to journalists' work; and

Whereas these meetings provide important information about the work of government agencies on issues that concern the public and communities; and

Whereas the Bagley-Keene Act requires that these meetings and all proceedings therein be conducted in full public view except in certain, precisely defined circumstances; and

Whereas California Department of Industrial Relations Director Christine Baker prevented coverage of a meeting of the California Health and Safety and Workers' Compensation Commission ("HSWCC") on December 15, 2014, at the California State Building in Oakland on the 100th anniversary of Workers' Compensation and Cal-OSHA; and

Whereas journalist Steve Zeltzer, who was working for KPFA "Work Week," was prevented from attending this meeting; and

Whereas DIR Director Baker summoned the California Highway Patrol to remove Mr. Zeltzer from the public foyer and prevent him from attending this meeting; and

Whereas this type of action threatens the right of all journalists and the public to receive information about the work of the HSWCC and the DIR in the area of workers' compensation and the California Occupational Health and Safety Administration; and

Therefore be it Resolved that the San Francisco Labor Council calls on the HSWCC and its members and staff, and on Director Baker and the DIR to cease and desist from any further efforts to block journalists and other members of the public from attending these meetings as they are publicly funded and held at public facilities; and

Be it Further Resolved that the San Francisco Labor Council urge all other affiliated locals and bodies including but not limited to the Communications Workers of America District 9 and the California Federation of Labor to concur with this resolution; and



Be it Finally Resolved that the San Francisco Labor Council we will send this resolution to DIR Director Baker; to Eduardo Enz, acting Executive Officer of the HSWCC; to our California legislative representatives; and to California Governor Jerry Brown.

Submitted by the Pacific Media Workers Guild – CWA 39521 and adopted unanimously by the San Francisco Labor Council on August 10, 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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