



RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE MIDTOWN TENANTS

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WHEREAS, Midtown Park Apartments were developed as relocation housing intended to prevent displacement of long-time residents of the Western Addition-Fillmore community; and

WHEREAS, since its inception in 1968, Midtown Park residents were promised co-ownership of the complex as documented in Resolution 325-07, which was adopted by the Board of Supervisors in 2007; and

WHEREAS, residents organized through a Tenant Association, have carried out necessary unit repairs to Midtown Park on an all-volunteer basis, due to years of neglect by the City of San Francisco, which left the health and safety of residents severely compromised; and

WHEREAS, even though Midtown Park tenants paid off the mortgage owed on the complex in 2007, Mayor's Office of Housing Director Olson Lee terminated the lease between Midtown Park and the City of San Francisco two days before Christmas in 2013 and then awarded a new lease agreement to Mercy Housing; and

WHEREAS, since taking over the lease, Mercy Housing has imposed exorbitant rent increases ranging between 30% and 300%, engaging in a campaign of harassment and intimidation against tenants who are active in the fightback underway; and

WHEREAS, Midtown Park represents a diverse working class community of 390 residents, many of whom are African American, immigrant, seniors, and veterans; and

WHEREAS, to no avail, Midtown Park tenants have repeatedly appealed to their district representative, London Breed, the president of the Board of Supervisors, and to the Board at large by filing the largest number of petitions in San Francisco history in 2014 and 2015 for the re-establishment of rent control protections; and

WHEREAS, in response to the offensive led by Mercy Housing in conjunction with the Mayor's Office of Housing, Midtown Park residents have organized the largest rent strike in San Francisco history, and are now focused on reaching out to and utilizing the strength of the labor movement to assist in their fight.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that SFLC Executive Director Tim Paulson will write a letter to the Board of Supervisors and to the Mayor's Office of Housing in support of Midtown Park demands, which include the following: immediately rescind all rent increases and all draconian lease conditions imposed by Mercy Housing; restore the original lease between Midtown Park and the City of San Francisco; restore rent-control protections; and, finally, observe the agreement for cooperative ownership.

Submitted by Lita Blanc, UESF, and adopted by the San Francisco Labor Council on December 14, 2015.

Respectfully,

Tim Paulson
Executive Director

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