Resolution for Labor Action to Stop Flint’s Poisoned Water Crisis and Hold Michigan’s Governor Accountable

WHEREAS, the drinking water in Flint, Michigan has been poisoned with lead ever since the decision more than a year ago to use the contaminated Flint River as the source of drinking water; and

WHEREAS, that decision was made as a budget-cutting measure by the Flint emergency manager appointed by Michigan Governor Rick Snyder; and

WHEREAS, it has now been revealed that Michigan Governor Snyder’s administration has known about Flint’s severe water problems for more than a year but, lied to residents that the water was safe; and

WHEREAS, the deaths and permanent damage from this disaster to tens of thousands of Flint’s predominantly black residents, especially children, is the latest tragic consequence of the nationwide austerity campaign that uses budget cutting as justification for shredding the social safety net and leaving the nation’s infrastructure to decay; and

WHEREAS, failure to act decisively now can only lead to more man-made, intentional public health crises,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the San Francisco Labor Council holds Michigan Governor Snyder accountable for the Flint disaster and calls for a federal investigation to bring criminal charges against him and that he be suspended from office immediately pending its outcome; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Darnell Earley, the Flint emergency manager when Flint switched its drinking water source to the poisoned Flint River water, also be a subject of federal criminal investigation, and that he be immediately removed from his position as emergency manager of Detroit Public Schools (the position to which Snyder promoted him in 2015) so that he can do no further harm to the children of Michigan; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that upon approval, this motion will be taken to the California State Federation of Labor.

Submitted by Marcus Holder, ILWU 10, and Lola Preza, SEIU 1000 and adopted unanimously by the San Francisco Labor Council on February 8, 2016.

Respectfully,

Tim Paulson
Executive Director

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