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### **Resolution in Support of the Rising Chilean People's Movement for Economic Equality and Political Freedom**

Whereas, the recent mass mobilizations and protests happening in Chile during this past week started as high school students' rebellious and brave response to a fare hike on the subway system of Santiago, Chile, where they decided to jump the turnstiles and refuse to pay the fares in order to make clear their opposition to the hike as it had a disproportionately negative impact upon more than 50% of Chileans who earn a minimum wage of 300,000 pesos per month, and upon the retirees who get only 100,000 pesos per month and are unable to pay for their medicines, many of whom are the parents and grandparents of these students; and

Whereas, the Pinera government response was to send in the Carabineros, the Chilean police force which savagely attacked the youth and even threw tear gas into the trains, trapping passengers in the toxic fumes and then escalated its response by applying the nefarious State Security Laws against the youth detained, laws which had been created by the Pinochet dictatorship to repress the opposition and which had continued to be used during these past 30 years mostly against the Mapuche people; and

Whereas, Chile's public pension system was privatized after the dictatorship of Pinochet took power and the economic policies of privatization known as the Milton Friedman Chicago Boys School of Economics was imposed upon the entire working class of Chile by means of a bloody dictatorship which outlawed strikes, imprisoned activists and disappeared thousands of workers and privatized healthcare, education and even the most essential ingredient for life WATER; and

Whereas, the rampant corruption that exists within the elite owners of corporations which have been caught in price-fixing schemes in the pharmaceutical industry, in the poultry, in paper products, as well as high-stakes tax evasion have only earned them wrist-slapping sentences of "Ethics classes" while the disproportionate use of force and criminalization used against the youth who were protesting was the straw that broke the camel's back and motivated the adults to stand up for their youth and for their future and demand a Chile where they can live in dignity; and

Whereas, the police and armed forces of Chile have been filmed setting fire to supermarkets, metro stations and these counterinsurgency scare tactics are used by military regimes to scare the population into demanding protection by the military from alleged terrorist forces while it is clear that people are gathering in peaceful defiance of the military and police presence in the major plazas and

intersections to express their discontent with the government, and with the political system which allows this inequality to continue; and

Whereas, the unions such as the Union de Trabajadores Portuarios (Port workers) Confederacion General del Trabajo (General Confederation of Labor) and the Central Unica de Trabajadores (Unified Central of Workers) have called for a General Strike since Monday October 21<sup>st</sup> and another one Wednesday October 23<sup>rd</sup> and October 24<sup>th</sup> and have been involved in work stoppages throughout the country; and

Whereas, many social organizations and unions are stating that any dialogue with the government under the oppression conditions of a State of Emergency with active troops out in the streets shooting live bullets and prohibiting the free exercise of association and gatherings with an evening curfew that keeps catching workers and youth trying to get home in the grasp of the military and subject to severe penalties for being out after the curfew; and

Whereas, according to the Interamerican Commission on Human Rights, the death toll and wounded so far is 231, detained is 1,601 and the number of disappeared is still unknown but there are reports by family members that their loved ones have not made it home after being detained, and there are also many videos, photos taken of extremely excessive use of force against civilian population and videos of military forces shooting people while they are running away or on the ground, going after them in their homes and even running people over with their police cars; and

Whereas, worker-to-worker and union-to-union solidarity has been a long-standing tradition of the San Francisco Labor Movement, especially as it relates to Chile with the heroic support of the International Longshoreman and Warehouse Union support of the Chilean people during the dictatorship of Pinochet by refusing to load and unload ships; and

Whereas, UPTE-CWA 9119 approved a resolution in its March 2019 Statewide Convention to support the No Mas AFP movement in Chile during the March 31<sup>st</sup> marches in Chile opposing privatization of the AFP pension system and acknowledging a shared interest in defeating the privatization and learning from the very bad experiences of Chilean workers with these defined contribution schemes since UPTE members were also facing attacks on its UC pension system;

Therefore Be it Resolved that the San Francisco Labor Council supports the Chilean People's movement for economic equality and political freedom and call on the Pinera government to respect the Chilean people's full political and human rights and to send the troops back into the barracks to allow the Chilean people to decide their destiny and create a dignified life for themselves and their children and a clean environment.

Adopted by the San Francisco Labor Council on October 28, 2019.