



Kriss Worthington

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CONSENT CALENDAR

May 17, 2011

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
 From: Councilmember Kriss Worthington
 Councilmember Jesse Arreguin

Subject: Support the Rank-and-File International Longshore and Warehouse Union
 Against Pacific Maritime Association's Threatening Court Tactics

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution to support the Rank-and-File International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) against Pacific Maritime Association's court suit.

BACKGROUND

On April 4th the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) participated in a national day of solidarity with Wisconsin workers who are facing attacks on collective bargaining and cuts to social services as a result of Wisconsin Governor Walker's anti-labor action bill. The ILWU rank-and-file brought production to a halt and shut down Oakland ports as part of the solidarity demonstration. The employer's group, Pacific Maritime Association, responded to the action by intimidating the union through a court suit. ILWU and the San Francisco Labor Council are organizing a campaign to bring together labor, community, and social justice activists to defend ILWU Local 10.

The City of San Francisco passed a resolution to defend the April 4th solidarity action by ILWU. The City of Berkeley should also show solidarity with the movement by adopting a resolution.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Unknown.

CONTACT PERSON

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Attachment:
 1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

DEFENDING APRIL 4TH SOLIDARITY ACTION BY THE RANK-AND-FILE
INTERNATIONAL LONGSHORE AND WAREHOUSE UNION LOCAL 10

WHEREAS, International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) Local 10 and its President Richard Mead are being sued in court by maritime employers of the Pacific Maritime Association (PMA) for a 24-hour shutdown of the Port of Oakland on April 4, for responding to the AFL-CIO call for a National Day of Action and in line with ILWU International President McEllrath's March 8th call for mobilizing in solidarity with the workers of Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, each rank and file member of Local 10 made this selfless choice to stand up for public workers in Wisconsin and for all workers in the best tradition of the longshore union, as they have done since the Big Strike of 1934 and the historic San Francisco General Strike, which built the foundation for the trade union movement in this city and on the West Coast; and

WHEREAS, these same maritime employers were unsuccessful in their attempt to use the slave labor Taft-Hartley Act to stop the ILWU from carrying out a Local 10-initiated coastwise shutdown of all ports on May Day 2008 to demand an end to the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, a first-ever in U.S. labor history; and

WHEREAS, Local 10, the heart and soul of the San Francisco labor movement, is now under attack for implementing the principled labor slogan, "An injury to one is an injury to all"; and

WHEREAS, the San Francisco Labor Council has initiated a defense of ILWU Local 10 by setting up a broad-based defense committee in close collaboration with Local 10, and by mobilizing the AFL-CIO labor councils and unions of the Bay Area and California; and

WHEREAS, the first step in this campaign was the call for a mass mobilization of all Bay Area Labor Councils and the California AFL-CIO to rally in front of PMA headquarters in San Francisco on Monday, April 25, to demand that the court suit be dropped and that the vindictive procedures against the union in the arbitration be halted immediately.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that ILWU Local 10 be commended for its solidarity action and that we request that the state and national AFL-CIO do likewise.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Berkeley supports the rank-and-file ILWU members solidarity action.