

RESOLUTION NO. 103-10

RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION (WPA); CALLING ON PRESIDENT OBAMA AND CONGRESS TO DELIVER A REAL WPA PROGRAM; AND SUPPORTING THE GOALS OF THE OCTOBER 2ND, 2010 MARCH ON WASHINGTON: JOBS, ECONOMIC SECURITY, COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM, A SAFE AND RENEWABLE ENERGY POLICY, AND A REVERSAL OF NATIONAL PRIORITIES FROM MAKING WARS TO MEETING HUMAN NEEDS

WHEREAS, 75 years ago, on April 8, 1935, Congress passed legislation creating the largest public works program in U.S. history, and on May 6, 1935, President Franklin Roosevelt issued an executive order founding the Works Progress Administration (WPA), which created 8.5 million jobs during the Depression of the 1930s; and

WHEREAS, the WPA didn't just happen because of the kindness and concern of President Roosevelt, but was a response to a tremendous mass movement in the streets and workplaces all over the U.S. — from the Bonus March and Ford Hunger March of 1932, to the San Francisco general strike and large industrial actions in Toledo and Minneapolis in 1934, to later sit-downs in the auto plants of Michigan, to militant actions by Unemployed Councils in hundreds of cities, demonstrating that this pressure from below got us the WPA, Social Security and other New Deal programs; and

WHEREAS, today's economic crisis is nearly as severe as it was back then, with unemployment in manufacturing approaching Great Depression levels, our current economy based on permanent high unemployment and low wages, with a political and economic system providing trillions of dollars in bailouts for Wall Street and for war, but nothing for the large numbers of workers and the poor, in Richmond and elsewhere, who are facing growing joblessness, foreclosures, evictions, layoffs, low wages, hunger and homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the AFL-CIO has a worthy five-point Jobs Plan, that will need a massive amount of "street heat", such as proposals from many local and state unions for a labor-led Solidarity Day III march on Washington in the tradition of past AFL-CIO Solidarity Day marches, for its implementation to be assured; and

WHEREAS, we need the same kind of bold, sweeping jobs program fully funded by the government that people demanded — and got — in the 1930s in order to ensure that the 20 -30 million unemployed and underemployed people in the country today get work that is socially useful and paying union wages and benefits to fix and staff our schools, health care facilities, sewers, streets, and infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, Martin Luther King Jr. dedicated the final months of his life to starting a movement for the right of everyone to a job or a guaranteed income, and we need that movement now, a massive movement in the streets and workplaces to bring about a real public jobs program like the WPA in the 1930's;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that in this 75th anniversary year of the WPA, which created 8.5 million public jobs during the Depression of the 1930s, the City of Richmond California joins the California Labor Federation, the AFL-CIO and all of organized labor to demand from President Obama and the U.S. Congress: a real WPA-type program that is big enough to ensure that those who need work get work — work that is socially useful and paying union wages and benefits — a real jobs program fully funded by the government; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Richmond supports the October 2, 2010 march on Washington called by the NAACP, SEIU Local 1199, other civil rights groups and supported by the AFL-CIO for *Jobs, Justice and Peace*; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Richmond calls on its working families to mobilize locally on October 2, 2010 in solidarity with the march on Washington DC, and to send a strong message to the Obama administration and Congress that Richmond wants Jobs, Economic Security, Comprehensive Immigration Reform, a Safe and Renewable Energy Policy and a Reversal of National Priorities from Making Wars to Meeting Human Needs; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Richmond City Council directs the City Manager to send copies of this resolution to President Obama, Senator Barbara Boxer, Senator Dianne Feinstein, Congressman George Miller and Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi.

I certify that the foregoing resolution was passed and adopted by the Council of the City of Richmond at a joint regular meeting thereof held on September 7, 2010, by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Bates, Butt, Lopez, Rogers, Viramontes, Vice Mayor Ritterman, and Mayor Mclaughlin.

NOES: None.

ABSTENTIONS: None.

ABSENT: None.

DIANE HOLMES
Clerk of the City of Richmond

(SEAL)

Approved:

GAYLE MCLAUGHLIN
Mayor

Approved as to form:

RANDY RIDDLE
City Attorney

State of California }
County of Contra Costa } : ss.
City of Richmond }

I certify that the foregoing is a true copy of **Resolution No. 103-10**, finally passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Richmond at a joint regular meeting held on September 7, 2010.