

RESOLUTION NO. 21-11

RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND SUPPORTING THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING RIGHTS OF WORKERS IN THE STATE OF WISCONSIN

WHEREAS, collective bargaining is a process of negotiations between employers and unions aimed at reaching agreements which regulate wages, hours and terms and conditions of employment; and

WHEREAS, collective bargaining rights are integral to protecting workers and ensuring fair and stable working conditions; and

WHEREAS, organized labor has been an important force for positive economic reforms in the United States, which include the eight-hour work day, health insurance and Medicare, social security, pensions and minimum wages; and

WHEREAS, in 1959, Wisconsin was the first state in the nation to provide all public-sector workers collective bargaining rights; and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin state senate and assembly have voted to approve a bill to sharply curb collective-bargaining rights for tens of thousands of the state's public worker unions; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker has stated that he will sign the bill into law citing future budget shortfalls as the reason; and

WHEREAS, Governor Walker engineered the enactment of \$140 million in new tax breaks for multi-national corporations in January of 2011; and

WHEREAS, Governor Walker is continuing the attack on organized labor started by President Ronald Reagan who fired 12,000 air traffic controllers soon after taking office in 1981 in order to break their strike and begin a new era of labor suppression; and

WHEREAS, the unremitting attacks on the labor movement, and the weakening of unions is a major cause of the most massive upward redistribution of income and wealth in US history; and

WHEREAS, this upward redistribution of income has resulted in the United States becoming the most unequal rich country on earth; and

WHEREAS, rising income inequality is correlated with lower life expectancy, higher infant mortality, more homicides, more teen pregnancies, more prisoners per capita, lower scholastic achievement, less civic trust, more obesity, and less recycling; and

WHEREAS, this de-unionization movement is a step toward further disinvestment in the public sector, trimming away vital government functions that serve ordinary families; and

WHEREAS, these public services include: public schools, public investments in infrastructure maintenance and repair, quality healthcare for all, and public job-creation programs;

WHEREAS, the severe curbing of their collective bargaining rights is detrimental to the welfare of Wisconsin State employees; and

WHEREAS, the City of Richmond wishes to show its solidarity with these Wisconsin workers; and

WHEREAS, if unopposed this anti-union agenda could erode the legal rights of public employees nationally and potentially adversely affect public employees in the City of Richmond.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Richmond supports the collective bargaining rights of workers in the State of Wisconsin.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the city of Richmond supports the courageous actions of the workers, students and other citizens of Wisconsin, Ohio, and Indiana who are taking a firm stand in the traditions of the great civil rights and labor struggles of the United States and struggles for democracy around the world.

I certify that the foregoing resolution was passed and adopted by the Council of the City of Richmond, California at a special meeting thereof held March 15, 2011, by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Bates, Beckles, Booze, Ritterman, Rogers, Vice Mayor Butt, 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. 21-11**, finally passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Richmond at a special meeting held on March 15, 2011.