

Resolutions adopted by MLKCLC in 2002

Supporting state legislation to authorize a County utility tax - 1/16/02

Supporting the 50th Anniversary of the Paul Robeson Peace Arch Concert - 3/6/02

Urging improvements to the TANF program - 4/17/02

Supporting the creation of a Seattle/King County Workers Memorial - 5/1/02

Supporting ILWU - 9/4/02

Supporting the proposed use of the "Hat and Boots" property for the purpose of expanding the SSCC Duwamish Education Training Center - 10/6/02

Supporting collective bargaining rights and civil service protections for Department of Homeland Security federal employees - 11/6/02

Endorsing the candidacy of Steve Williamson for the Monorail Authority Board of Directors - 12/4/02

Resolution to support state legislation to authorize a County utility tax - Adopted 1/16/02

WHEREAS for 2002, King County faced a significant budget deficit – requiring a reduction of more than \$45 million dollars or 10% of the County General (Current Expense) Fund; and

WHEREAS municipal annexations and incorporations have dramatically eroded the County's sales tax base; and

WHEREAS King County's General Fund will be out of balance by an additional \$25 million per year in the coming years; and

WHEREAS without a new revenue stream for the County and with no other viable alternative, entire departments and programs, such as the Dept. of Community and Human Services and King County Parks, will need to be dismantled while services critical to public safety and community welfare will no longer be delivered and hundreds of union members will lose their jobs; and

WHEREAS counties, as general governments, have a limited set of tax options authorized by the State and are dependent on property and sales taxes (unlike cities that also are authorized by the State to levy utility and business and occupation taxes); and

WHEREAS a county utility tax would provide a significant revenue stream for King County; and

WHEREAS the Washington Dept. of Revenue has estimated that each 1% of a King County utility tax would generate approximately \$38.1 million; be it therefore

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council supports State legislation to authorize a county utility tax with no exemptions and urges all affiliates to work vigorously to support the passage of this legislation.

Resolution supporting the 50th Anniversary of the Paul Robeson Peace Arch Concert - Adopted 3/6/02

WHEREAS May 18, 2002 marks the 50th anniversary of the Paul Robeson Peace Arch concert held May 18, 1952 in Washington State in support of the Mine, Mill and Smelter workers union; and

WHEREAS the courageous leadership and talent Paul Robeson brought to the fight for international workers' rights, civil rights and the rights of all people for self-determination continues to inspire us; and

WHEREAS the British Columbia labor movement is organizing to stop the vicious attacks on working people, and our unions, and to push forward the living standards of Canadian workers and their families; and

WHEREAS there is established a joint effort by British Columbia trade unions, the SEIU Greenhouse/Bread and Roses Cultural Project and the Washington State labor movement to make sure that the 50th Anniversary Memorial Concert at the Blaine Peace Arch is a history-making tribute to Robeson and a cultural event to inspire us to further our work; be it therefore

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council go on record to endorse the upcoming Memorial event, contribute \$250 to "Arts In Action" to support the Memorial concert and notify all affiliates and delegates of this important cultural event and encourage attendance.

Resolution urging improvements to the TANF program - Adopted 4/17/02

WHEREAS in 1996 the US Congress passed the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA), abolishing the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) Program and creating the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program; and

WHEREAS work has become a requirement in exchange for time-limited financial assistance under TANF; and

WHEREAS recent studies confirm that work itself does not guarantee that a family in our community or any community throughout the nation can earn an income to afford basic necessities, e.g. food, housing, healthcare and childcare, even during periods of economic prosperity; and

WHEREAS a recent report issued by the Washington State Employment Security Department indicates that the majority of former TANF recipients who left the program in 1997 still lived below the poverty level of \$14,150 for a family of three in 2000; and

WHEREAS the state of Washington has lowered its wage progression goal which originally was that 50 percent of parents leaving the welfare rolls would see their earnings increase by 10% one year later; and

WHEREAS high work participation rates imposed on the states, such as those recommended by President Bush's welfare plan, would force Washington state to implement large-scale workfare programs, which require welfare recipients to 'work off' their grants by doing unpaid work; and

WHEREAS workfare programs have been shown to be ineffective in increasing employment or wages of families on welfare; and

WHEREAS workfare programs have been used to displace union workers with unpaid workers; and

WHEREAS completion of a two year training program can help poor individuals take a significant step toward self-sufficiency; and

WHEREAS the US Congress is scheduled to review and reauthorize TANF during 2002; be it therefore

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council supports local, state and federal efforts to make the focus of the TANF program reducing poverty among low-income families, not just reducing welfare caseloads. Such improvements may include, but need not be limited to: prohibiting all workfare programs; setting reasonable work participation rates with an employment reduction credit; increasing the TANF block grant at least by inflation and including a provision to give bonuses to states that implement effective job retention and wage progression strategies; allowing at least 24 months of vocational training or other post-secondary education as a work activity; making time limits more flexible in order to ensure that families are working or complying with welfare to work activities are not removed from welfare rolls; and restoring legal immigrants' eligibility for TANF, Medicaid and food stamps, and other pre-1996 benefits; and be it further RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council will forward this resolution to the Washington State Labor Council with a request that they endorse this resolution and make it a legislative priority.

Resolution supporting the creation of a Seattle/King County Workers Memorial - Adopted 5/1/02

WHEREAS Seattle's workers for generations have labored to build our city and create the wealth of our region; and

WHEREAS Seattle's workers have put themselves in harm's way in the performance of their labor; and

WHEREAS many workers have suffered injury and even death; be it therefore

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council will spearhead the effort of building a Seattle/King County Workers Memorial, along with the Seattle/King County Building and Construction Trades Council, to recognize their sacrifice.

Resolution in support of ILWU - Adopted 9/4/02

WHEREAS the contract between International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) and the Pacific Maritime Association (PMA) expired on July 1, 2002, and negotiators are operating on day-to-day extensions; and

WHEREAS the PMA, in collaboration with the Bush Administration, is using the issue of port security as a means to pressure ILWU members with the threat of deregistration if they have ever been convicted of crimes going back seven years or if they were involved in what is loosely defined as "sedition"; and

WHEREAS background checks for ILWU workers is an attack on the ILWU hiring hall, which was established as a result of the historic 1934 strike and served as a model for all Bay Area Unions; and

WHEREAS the ILWU workforce has already been reduced from 14,274 on the West Coast in 1971, to 10,500 in 2001, while productivity has been greatly increased and company profits have been substantial; and

WHEREAS the PMA and the West Coast Water Front Coalition, which include companies like Wal-Mart, Home Depot, Chiquita Brands, etc, have been conducting a campaign in industry publications demanding concessions and threatening to lock out the union if demands are not met; and

WHEREAS the Bush Administration, the Department of Labor, and the Department of Defense have been threatening the ILWU negotiating team with National Guard, military or other personnel in the event of a lockout, slowdown or strike; and
WHEREAS the use of troops or federal personnel to displace private industry workers to break a bona fide labor dispute would be an extreme abuse of power and violate the most basic civil liberties enjoyed by all Americans; and
WHEREAS such government action would be harmful to the fragile national and West Coast economies and interfere with the ultimate goal of having the ILWU and the PMA resolve their differences and reach a contract settlement for the benefit of the parties and the general public; be it therefore
RESOLVED that we, the King County Labor Council, AFL-CIO, express our full support to the ILWU in its current contract struggle with the shipping companies represented by the PMA, and pledge to give any aid we can when called on; and be it further
RESOLVED that this resolution be sent to all affiliated locals of our Council, the Washington State Labor Council, the National AFL-CIO, and the media; and be it further
RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council will write to President Bush to demand that the federal government stay out of the negotiations; and be it finally
RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council will lobby our Senators and Congressional representatives to vote against any measure that would outlaw or restrict ILWU's legal rights.

Resolution supporting the proposed use of the “Hat and Boots” property for the purpose of expanding the South Seattle Community College Duwamish Education Training Center - Adopted 10/6/02

WHEREAS South Seattle Community College's Duwamish Education Training Center is located on the nine acres just north of the historical vacant “Hat and Boots” property; and
WHEREAS the vision for SSCC Duwamish Education Center is to create a world-class regional Apprenticeship Training Center and the current facility cannot adequately meet the expanding needs; and
WHEREAS there is a coalition of agencies including the Washington State Labor Council, Western Washington Cement Masons JATC, Western Washington Painting, Decorating and Drywall JATC, Glaziers & Glassworkers JATC, Western Washington Floorcovering JATC, Boilermakers JATC, Pacific Northwest Ironworkers JATC, Sprinkler Fitters JATC, Puget Sound Electrical JATC, Meatcutters JATC, Western Washington Masonry Trades JATC, Northwest Construction Linemen and Tree Trimmer JATC, Aerospace Machinist, Laborers JATC, Communication Workers of America, State Firefighters Apprenticeship, King County Dislocated Workers, King County Jobs Initiative and Youthbuild supporting utilization of this land to expand the existing training facility; and
WHEREAS the Washington State Labor Council Convention resolution #21 passed recognizing “the dire need to address an escalating worker shortage in the building trades” and “endorse and support legislation to establish apprenticeship utilization requirements on public projects”; and
WHEREAS the Washington State Labor Council Convention resolution #46 passed with reference relating to “forming partnerships with Labor to develop apprenticeships and

training programs to ensure the availability of a skilled transportation workforce” as a high priority; and

WHEREAS state employees would also benefit by increased jobs created by expansion of this facility; be it therefore

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council will work with the Washington State Labor Council to seek legislation or whatever other means necessary to assist the appropriate parties in obtaining the “Hat and Boots” property for the purpose of expanding the South Seattle Community College Duwamish Education Training Center.

Resolution supporting collective bargaining rights and civil service protections for Department of Homeland Security federal employees - Adopted 11/6/02

WHEREAS in the proposed new Department of Homeland Security (DHS) the President has publicly focused on only two issues: taking away 170,000 federal employees’ right to have a union and giving managers the right to draft employee rules rather than have the rules spelled out in law; and

WHEREAS the Bush administration has said they intend to win these changes for the DHS first, then go back for the Department of Defense, the Veterans’ Affairs Department and all the other federal agencies; and

WHEREAS White House officials have called for unlimited ‘flexibility’ for agency managers: unchecked unilateral power to hire, fire, move, demote or promote any federal employee at will. This goes against Title 5 of the Civil Service Act, that guarantees protections and collective bargaining rights for federal employees; and

WHEREAS President Bush has insulted all federal employees, calling their patriotism into question with phony, absurd examples of a purported drag on homeland security allegedly created by unions and employee protections; and

WHEREAS civil service protections and union representation ensure that speaking out about serious problems is encouraged rather than punished; and

WHEREAS AFGE National President, Bobby Harnage stated, ‘Bush’s plan won’t make America more secure if it undermines the rights of workers whose job it is to protect our country’; be it therefore

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council endorses this resolution and will write letters to both U.S. Senators from Washington State urging preservation of collective bargaining rights and civil service protections for all federal employees transferred to the Department of Homeland Security, unless their primary job duty consists of intelligence, counter-intelligence or investigative work directly related to terrorism investigation; and be it further

RESOLVED that KCLC urge its affiliates to adopt similar resolutions and urge their members to call on Senators Murray and Cantwell to support collective bargaining for federal workers transferred to the Department of Homeland Security.

Resolution endorsing the candidacy of Steve Williamson for the Monorail Authority Board of Directors - Adopted 12/4/02

WHEREAS the citizens of King County and the City of Seattle recognize the need to address transportation issues that affect the vitality of the region; and

WHEREAS the citizens of the City of Seattle have voted three times to support the creation of a monorail system within the City of Seattle; and

WHEREAS on November 5, 2002 the citizens of the City of Seattle voted to create the Seattle Popular Monorail Authority; and
WHEREAS by the actions of the citizens of the City of Seattle in creating the Authority they created opportunities for citizens of the City of Seattle to participate as Board Members of the Authority; and
WHEREAS thousands of union members represented by the affiliates of the King County Labor Council are citizens of the City of Seattle and will be directly affected by the construction, operation and associated activities of the Authority; and
WHEREAS in other major public projects that have had citizen members participate as board members organized labor has had board representation; therefore be it
RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council endorse the candidacy of the Executive Secretary of the Labor Council and citizen of the City of Seattle, Steve Williamson, to be appointed to the Board of Directors of the Authority; and be it further
RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council petition the support of the Mayor of Seattle in support of this resolution.