

Resolutions adopted by MLKCLC in 2004

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Supporting the UNITE HERE rally on November 10, 2004 - 11/3/04

Resolution supporting the right to civil marriage for same-sex couples - Adopted 3/17/04

WHEREAS as labor unionists, we believe all workers are entitled to a discrimination-free workplace (full parity in benefits, pay and treatment) and fair treatment outside of the job; and

WHEREAS the divergent views on this issue are being cynically exploited by the Bush Administration to divert the attention of the electorate from the failed policies on jobs,

health care and education; from the absence of an exit strategy in Iraq; and from the unprecedented severity of the budget crisis; and

WHEREAS many labor unions have been securing groundbreaking contract language that provides lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender workers with a patchwork of protections and benefits including explicit anti-discrimination protection and pay parity through domestic partnership benefits; and

WHEREAS the United States General Accounting Office has documented over 1,000 federal benefits and protections acquired exclusively by civil marriage that are NOT available through domestic partnerships or civil unions, including the right to collect spousal Social Security benefits, workers' compensation, pension and death benefits when the spouse dies; the right to receive benefits under the Family and Medical Leave Act to care for an ill or injured spouse or spouse's child; and the right to have immigrant spouse accorded citizenship; and

WHEREAS hundreds of rights through state government are accorded via civil marriage and are not available through domestic partnerships; and

WHEREAS "separate is not equal," civil unions do not equal civil marriage; be it therefore RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council stands in support of the right of civil marriage for same-sex couples.

Resolution opposing the federal marriage amendment - Adopted 3/17/04

WHEREAS throughout our country's history, the Constitutional amendment has been a tool to enshrine the rights of all Americans. Our long history of civil-rights struggle has found protection in our Constitutional amendments. From the abolition of slavery, set forth in the 13th Amendment, to the right of women and people over the age of 18 to vote, set forth in the 19th and 26th Amendments, the Constitutional amendment has been the legal foundation on which to grant fundamental rights, not take them away; and

WHEREAS now a Constitutional amendment is being proposed that would take away the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons to enter into civil marriage. The Federal Marriage Amendment (S.J.Res. 26, H.J.Res. 56) states, "Marriage in the United States shall consist only of the union of a man and a woman. Neither this Constitution or the constitution of any State, nor state or federal law, shall be construed to require that marital status or the legal incidents thereof be conferred upon unmarried couples or groups."

If passed, the Federal Marriage Amendment would become the first Constitutional amendment to restrict the rights of a certain class of Americans; and

WHEREAS as labor unionists, we believe that our gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender brothers and sisters unequivocally deserve the same benefits as their heterosexual brothers and sisters. For that reason, labor unions have been securing groundbreaking contracts that provide our lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender brothers and sisters with a patchwork of protections and benefits. We have fought vigilantly to secure the rights of these workers through explicit anti-discrimination language and pay equity through domestic-partnership benefits; and

WHEREAS the Federal Marriage Amendment would make it virtually impossible to maintain and negotiate benefits on behalf of our lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender

workers. In states that have passed similar legislation, domestic-partnership benefits have been challenged; and

WHEREAS the Federal Marriage Amendment would restrict unions from offering all employees an equitable employment package. Furthermore, the Federal Marriage Amendment could invalidate thousands of union contracts that include domestic-partnership benefit provisions; be it therefore

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council stands in opposition to the Federal Marriage Amendment and recommends that the Washington State Labor Council and the national AFL-CIO adopt a similar position.

Resolution supporting activism without fear of criminal sabotage charges - Adopted 4/7/04

WHEREAS “criminal sabotage” laws have historically been used as a weapon to attack labor; and

WHEREAS the right to dissent is essential in a democratic society; and

WHEREAS under the Bush Administration the nation is facing an assault on basic democratic rights, including the right to dissent, on a level far beyond any seen since the 1950s; and

WHEREAS activists from the Rainforest Action Network (RAN), an environmental organization with a strong history of support for the labor movement, are facing charges of “criminal sabotage” for hanging a banner from a construction crane to publicize Weyerhaeuser’s continuing harvesting of old growth timber; and

WHEREAS Intracorp, the Canadian-based multinational developer of the project, has routinely violated both area standards and U.S. laws, and now seeks to use their political clout to impose excessive penalties for political dissent; and

WHEREAS “criminal sabotage” in Washington is a Class C felony carrying potential penalties of up to five years in prison plus a fine of up to \$10,000; and

WHEREAS the actions of RAN activists were non-violent, and well within the bounds of civil disobedience; be it therefore

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council demands that King County Prosecuting Attorney Norm Maleng drop the felony charges against the RAN activists; and be it further

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council requests that King County Prosecuting Attorney Norm Maleng meet with the executive board of the Council to discuss our concerns.

Resolution supporting healthcare for all - Adopted 4/7/04

WHEREAS forty four million Americans have no healthcare coverage, thirty million more have only minimal coverage, and those with coverage often have to pay exorbitant amounts for premiums, co-pays and deductible; and

WHEREAS in union contract bargaining across all sectors of the economy, healthcare benefits have become the number one issue, as employers attempt to reduce these benefits in order to increase profits; and

WHEREAS in a statement following the settlement of the Southern California grocery workers’ strike, UFCW International President Doug Dority said,

“We must have national health care reform. No one company, no one union, no industry or group of workers alone can fix the health care system. We can patch it up. We can protect our members for another contract term, but the system continues to falter, exacting an increasing cost on both workers and employers and leaving more and more families without health care;” and

WHEREAS the current profit-driven health care system, dominated by private insurance firms and their bureaucracies, has failed, the General Accounting Office of Congress has concluded that “If the U.S. were to shift to a system of universal coverage and a single payer, as in Canada, the savings in administrative costs would be more than enough to offset the cost;” be it therefore

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council supports the establishment of streamlined national health insurance, universal healthcare with a single payers plan, publicly financed, privately delivered, providing affordable prescription drugs through bulk purchasing.

Resolution supporting affordable health benefits for grocery workers - Adopted 4/7/04

WHEREAS in the next eight weeks 25,000 grocery workers will begin negotiating a renewed contract with the Puget Sound area grocery stores. These negotiations follow on the heels of draconian proposals by the same companies in other states to slash health care benefits to UFCW members; and

WHEREAS if these corporations succeed in imposing the changes in worker health care insurance benefits that they have demanded in other states, it is only a matter of time before other employers will follow suit; be it therefore

RESOLVED that these highly profitable companies, with billions of dollars in assets, can afford to do the right thing and maintain their commitment to providing health insurance benefits to their hard-working employees; and be it further

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council and all Americans who care about access to decent health care call on the area grocery store companies to continue to provide affordable health benefits for all of its grocery workers.

Resolution supporting the KMU - Adopted 4/21/04

WHEREAS Mark and Melissa Dimondstein, organizers for the APWU from Greensboro, NC, attended the 19th annual International Solidarity Affair (ISA) in Manila, Philippines, and gave a slide presentation reporting on what they learned there; and

WHEREAS GSAL/APWU co-sponsored the Dimondstein’s presentation; and

WHEREAS their presentation showed that workers in the Philippines struggle against poverty so extreme that thirty percent of them live in squatter housing without electricity or running water with some entire families living in one room and sleeping on the floor; and

WHEREAS employers continually scheme against workers by subcontracting to avoid minimum legal labor standards; and

WHEREAS the Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) organizes workers into courageous and effective resistance through negotiations and strikes (e.g., a recent win against the sugar refineries); and

WHEREAS KMU organizers live like the people they represent, sleeping on floors in union offices and making only one-fifth of the income of the workers in the industries they represent; and

WHEREAS the KMU gives educational courses on 1) how the Philippine people are affected by the WTO, IMF and privatization of public assets, and 2) how to overcome economic oppression through negotiations, strikes and labor solidarity; and

WHEREAS at the annual ISA in Manila the KMU expands labor education to workers from all over the world through "exposures" to Philippine workers on the job and in the community followed by discussions and votes on actions to improve workers' lives in international solidarity; be it therefore

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council send greetings and congratulations to the KMU on the occasion of their 20th annual International Solidarity Affair.

Resolution supporting worker activist Ken Evans - Adopted 4/21/04

WHEREAS the Seattle Housing Authority (SHA) is the recipient of over \$125 million dollars of Federal HUD HOPE VI funds to redevelop Seattle's public housing communities; and

WHEREAS Walsh Construction Co. is SHA's general contractor on the redevelopment of New Holly (Phase 3) and Rainier Vista (Phase 1); and

WHEREAS SHA and their general and sub-contractors are required under Section 3 of the HUD Act of 1968 to employ and train low-income residents from within and around these redevelopments; and

WHEREAS SHA and their general and sub-contractors are covered by federal OSHA and local WISHA safety regulations; and

WHEREAS LELO (NW Labor & Employment Law Office) Family Wage Jobs Project is organizing workers from Southeast Seattle neighborhoods to demand that SHA and their contractors comply with HUD regulations; and

WHEREAS Ken Evans, an African American male, was hired by Walsh to work as a non-union laborer in August 2003; and

WHEREAS Ken Evans, after repeatedly speaking up to address unsafe working conditions that threatened his safety and health and the safety and health of his co-workers, was fired on April 6, 2004; and

WHEREAS contrary to the employer's claim that he was fired for "poor performance," we know that Ken was fired for his activism on behalf of safe conditions for all workers and fair hiring practices leading to opportunities for low-income Seattle residents; and WHEREAS members of LELO's FWJ project met with SHA Executive Director Tom Tierney to demand a full investigation of Walsh's actions and to demand Ken's immediate reinstatement, with back pay and a guarantee of no retaliation; be it therefore

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council and the Diversity Committee condemn Walsh Construction's retaliatory firing of worker activist Ken Evans, and be it further

RESOLVED that KCLC supports LELO's Family Wage Jobs Project's informational leafletting of SHA events calling for Ken's reinstatement and compliance with job site safety and health regulations; and be it finally

RESOLVED that KCLC will forward this resolution to its affiliates for consideration.

Resolution supporting Initiative 884 - Adopted 4/21/04

WHEREAS as workers, we have a keen interest in ensuring a high quality of public education in Washington state for our own children and the future; and
WHEREAS current state funding for education in Washington is inadequate to address the needs of our state's preschool, K-12 and higher education; and
WHEREAS the state legislature has not funded two popular education initiatives, I-728 and I-732, due to a lack of funding source attached to them; and
WHEREAS Initiative 884 proposes to create 10,000 new high quality preschool spaces, reduce class sizes by fully funding Initiative 728, fund 25,000 additional enrollments at two and four year colleges, and 7,000 new enrollments in high demand fields, and expand Promise Scholarships to help keep college affordable for working families; and
WHEREAS Initiative 884 will provide funding to make up for lost Cost of Living Adjustments for all education employees in 2005; and
WHEREAS Initiative 884 will establish an Education Trust Fund to secure funding for these strategies immediately through the establishment of a 1% sales tax; and
WHEREAS education funding in this state is currently at a crisis level and I-884 will provide an immediate solution that will primarily benefit working families in Washington; be it therefore
RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council recommends endorsement of I-884 to the Washington State Labor Council.

Resolution supporting transparency and review of Washington State tax breaks - Adopted 5/5/04

WHEREAS the State of Washington faces a continuing budget crunch which squeezes funding for education, transportation, libraries, parks, health care and other services; and
WHEREAS the State of Washington has granted 503 tax breaks or exemptions valued at \$64.7 billion over the current two-year budget period; and
WHEREAS many of these exemptions were enacted during the 1930's, and are renewed with little debate or meaningful review; and
WHEREAS a January 2003 state Department of Revenue report identifies \$13.5 billion in potential increased revenue over two years, if half the exemptions were repealed; and
WHEREAS in 2002, a legislative-appointed Washington State Tax Structure Study Committee recommended periodic legislative review of "all tax exemptions, grouped by purpose or function, to ensure that these exemptions continue to serve the public purposes for which they were enacted," yet such reviews are not being done; be it therefore
RESOLVED that this body shall urge that the following reforms be enacted, and shall communicate this request to elected officials as appropriate:

- The State of Washington shall make available to the public, in written form and on a website, a list of all current tax breaks and exemptions with the estimated cost, the purpose, the statutory authority, the expirations (renewal) date, and the identity of the five largest beneficiaries of each;
- The public shall be given ample notice and opportunity to comment on renewals of tax breaks and exemptions;

- The identities of legislators voting for or against renewing tax exemption and breaks henceforth shall be compiled and made available in an accessible format for public scrutiny;
- The Legislature shall direct periodic open reviews of all tax breaks and exemptions to evaluate their benefits to the public interest versus their cost to the public; members of the review committee who disagree with any aspect of that committee's report or recommendations shall be allowed to issue a separate minority report that shall be part of the public record.

Resolution on Port of Seattle T90/91 - Adopted 5/19/04

WHEREAS the Port of Seattle was established by the people to make long-term, job generating investments for the benefit of multiple generations of citizens that the private-sector with its short-term focus would not make; and

WHEREAS the Port of Seattle's new economic development model creates a few high-paying high tech jobs and many low-paying service sector jobs and changes the Port from a steward of industrial lands critical to supporting high skill family wage jobs to a real estate developer seeking to maximize returns on investment with minimal regard to the quality of the jobs it generates; and

WHEREAS the Port of Seattle has proposed a comprehensive plan amendment to the City Council for the upland portions of T90, T91 and the National Guard Armory and this proposed amendment has two options: 1) to re-designate the industrial land to a Hub Urban Village; or 2) to create an overlay zone to facilitate development of non-industrial uses such as biotech; and

WHEREAS the Port's proposed amendments create a negative precedent for conversion of industrial land to non-industrial uses; and

WHEREAS in 2002, Seattle' maritime sector accounted for an estimated \$4.1 billion in revenue and supported more than 22,000 jobs and 9,200 of those jobs were located directly on the waterfront; and

WHEREAS Seattle's maritime and industrial sector creates accessible, family-wage jobs; and

WHEREAS industrial firms in Seattle have difficulty locating in-city industrial land in order to accommodate expanded operations; and

WHEREAS T90 and T91 are served by rail facilities and deep-water piers unlike other industrial properties in the area; and

WHEREAS the T90 and T91 have the potential of being a world-class marine and industrial center; and

WHEREAS it is in the long-term interests of the citizens of Seattle for the Port to work for a diverse and robust economy that maintains and enhances job opportunities for all families; be it therefore

RESOLVED that KCLC opposes the comprehensive amendments proposed by the Port of Seattle and will work to defeat them at the Seattle City Council; and be it further

RESOLVED that KCLC shall inform local elected officials of its opposition and make their votes part of the KCLC tracking system; and be it finally

RESOLVED that KCLC will work with the Port of Seattle and the public officials who operate it along with the City of Seattle, industrial business groups and the community to ensure that a diverse economy is assured through proper utilization of the Port's

assets, including the development of T90 and T91 as a world-class marine and industrial center.

Resolution calling for the end of the occupation of Iraq - Adopted 5/19/04

WHEREAS the Bush Administration carried out an invasion of Iraq under the pretense that Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and the capability to deploy them, and therefore posed an immediate threat to the security of the United States and the rest of the world; and

WHEREAS after an extensive post-occupation search, there is no evidence that Iraq possessed WMD or the capability to deploy them; and

WHEREAS the war and military occupation of Iraq has cost the lives of over 750 U.S. troops, the wounding and disabling of thousands more, and death and injury to thousands of Iraqi civilians; and

WHEREAS the war and occupation has already cost the taxpayers of the United States over a hundred billion dollars, while at the same time social and human services, education and veterans' benefits are being cut; and

WHEREAS part of the cost to taxpayers is to pay for contracts awarded to corporations that are overcharging government agencies for both occupation services and rebuilding projects; be it therefore

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council calls for an end to the U.S. occupation of Iraq, the implementation of a plan to turn over sovereignty to the people of Iraq as soon as possible, and the return of U.S. troops to their homes and families.

Resolution on the occupation and labor rights in Iraq - Adopted 5/19/04

WHEREAS since George W. Bush declared an end to the war on Iraq in April 2003, unemployment among Iraqi workers has reached 70%, causing many families to go hungry and lose their housing; and

WHEREAS since Bush announced the war's end, the US occupying authority has frozen wages for most Iraqi workers at \$60/month, while eliminating previously enjoyed bonuses, profit sharing, and subsidies for food and housing, causing a sharp cut in income of those Iraqi workers still employed; and

WHEREAS since George W. Bush declared an end to the war on Iraq in April 2003, unemployment among Iraqi workers has reached 70%, causing many families to go hungry and lose their housing; and

WHEREAS \$87 billion was appropriated by Congress for the reconstruction of Iraq, yet not a cent has been designated for raising wages or unemployment benefits; and

WHEREAS since April, 2003, Iraqi workers have been trying to reorganize their trade union movement, to improve their standard of living, and preserve their jobs and workplaces; and

WHEREAS the United States has continued to enforce a 1987 law decreed by Saddam Hussein prohibiting unions and collective bargaining in the public sector and state enterprises where most Iraqis work; and

WHEREAS the US occupation authority announced it intends to sell off factories, refineries, mines and other state enterprises despite the fact that these enterprises belong to the Iraqi people, not to the US, and has issued a decree, Public Order 39,

allowing 100% foreign ownership of any Iraqi business and for all profits to be taken out of the country; and

WHEREAS Iraqi unions are seeking to organize without any resources, while the US occupying authority withholds welfare funds, buildings and other assets previously held by unions controlled by Saddam Hussein's government; be it therefore

RESOLVED the King County Labor Council calls on the government of the United States to direct the Occupation Authority to honor the International Labor Organization's core standards, including the right to organize and collectively bargain for all Iraqi workers including the public sector, and to immediately halt the process of privatizing Iraqi enterprises and selling off the property of the Iraqi people.

Resolution on Port of Seattle Terminal 46 - Adopted 5/19/04

WHEREAS the Port of Seattle is a municipal corporation created by the voters of King County in 1911; and

WHEREAS the Port is charged with making long term investments that generate jobs and help create a stable economy in the region; and

WHEREAS the Port of Seattle owns and operates seaport facilities along Elliott Bay, the Duwamish River, the Ship Canal and Puget Sound as well as the Seattle-Tacoma Airport; and

WHEREAS West Coast container trade is expected to double by the year 2015; and

WHEREAS other major West Coast ports are close to operating at their maximum capacity; and

WHEREAS Elliott Bay's natural deep water port with excellent rail access is ideally suited for container traffic and is well positioned to benefit from the coming increase in container traffic; and

WHEREAS real estate developers have proposed that the Port of Seattle's Terminal 46 be converted to non-maritime and non-industrial uses; and

WHEREAS Terminal 46 supports 1366 direct jobs and 2314 induced and indirect jobs, which provide \$187 million in personal income and generate \$22 million in state and local taxes plus \$47 million in federal taxes; and

WHEREAS public officials encouraging speculation about the non-industrial future of Terminal 46 damages the ability to retain Hanjin Shipping which is the operator of the terminal; and

WHEREAS the City of Seattle is developing a Central Waterfront Plan which could also negatively affect the future of Terminal 46; and

WHEREAS various redesign options for the Alaska Way Viaduct are being considered by the Washington Department of Transportation and these options as well as construction impacts could impede ingress and egress to the terminal and affect the efficiency of Hanjin's operations in the Port of Seattle; and

WHEREAS it is in the long term interests of the citizens of Seattle and King County for the Port to work toward establishing a robust and diverse economy that maintains and enhances job opportunities for the whole community; be it therefore

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council strongly oppose the efforts of real estate speculators and their allies to convert Terminal 46 to non-industrial uses; and be it further

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council shall communicate its position on Terminal 46 to the public and to local elected officials; and be it further

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council support a Central Waterfront Plan that insures the long-term operation of Terminal 46 as a family wage generating container terminal and shall make votes related to the adoption of this plan subject to the King County Labor Council tracking system; and be it further

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council advocate that Viaduct redesign options enhance the viability of Terminal 46 as a container terminal and that construction impacts on the terminal be minimized; and be it finally

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council work with the Port and public officials who operate it to ensure that a diverse economy is assured through the proper utilization of Terminal 46.

Resolution endorsing the July 17, 2004 "Put People First" rally - Adopted 6/16/04

WHEREAS state and federal agencies are systematically deprived of adequate funding for the provision of such devices as education, health and safety, transportation, utilities, social security, and health care for veterans; and

WHEREAS such funding shortfalls are used to justify and advance the contracting of such services, in part and in whole, to private contractors who, though they may have access to superior economic and technical resources, only provide their services if they can profit by doing so; and

WHEREAS the aforementioned public services by definition are not profitable, and profit-seeking contractors do a poor job of serving working people or developing new public infrastructure without siphoning wealth from communities; and

WHEREAS such contractors are increasingly subsidiaries of large corporate conglomerates and "off-shore" entities, whose interests lie not in the communities where they operate but in diverting jobs and revenues away from local and domestic economies; and

WHEREAS the Administration is overtly and covertly advancing policies and directives for the privatization of government and other public services hand-in-hand with initiatives designed to weaken collective bargaining rights for public and private workers across the board; be it therefore

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council will support and endorse the "Put People First!" rally in Seattle on July 17th to heighten public awareness of the peril of privatizing public services, which coincides with the National Governors Association meeting in Seattle on July 17-19, 2004; and be it further

RESOLVED that KCLC will encourage its affiliates to pass similar resolutions.

Resolution supporting the "Principles for a more secure Seattle" - Adopted 6/16/04

WHEREAS because there is a clear need to establish higher standards for the private security industry in Seattle, building owners, private security contractors, security experts, security officers, and their union, SEIU Local 6, should work together to raise standards for private security throughout Seattle; and

WHEREAS to maintain high standards throughout our region, security contracts must be awarded on the basis of the quality of the security provided to building tenants, property

and the public; to guarantee uniformly high standards for officers, all Seattle security officers should be covered by a uniform, citywide union contract agreement; and WHEREAS building tenants and the public rely on well-trained security officers for their safety and protection; to ensure accountability to the tenants and the public, security officers must receive the training they need to do their jobs; all Seattle security officers should undergo comprehensive training that thoroughly prepares them for emergency situations as well as their day-to-day duties; and

WHEREAS our city needs a professional, stable security workforce to ensure the safety of people and property. We cannot demand world-class security from officers who are paid poverty wages and receive little or no training. More training, living wages, and employer-paid full family health insurance are required for officers to be able to build their careers, increase their skills, and support their families; and

WHEREAS Seattle should implement a comprehensive, integrated approach to private security by developing better emergency response coordination among building personnel and police, fire and rescue teams; be it therefore

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council urges the City of Seattle and its commercial real estate industry to ensure secure buildings and safe communities by adopting the following "Principles for a More Secure Seattle;"

- Higher standards for private security
- A citywide union contract for private security officers
- Comprehensive training for private security officers
- A professional private security workforce
- Improved coordination among security, police, fire and rescue personnel in emergency response.

Resolution opposing Initiative 83, the "Monorail recall" initiative - 6/16/04

WHEREAS the Seattle/King County Building and Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO, is an affiliate of the King County Labor Council; and

WHEREAS the Council has steadfastly supported the Seattle Monorail Project; and

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

WHEREAS the construction of the Project will add directly and indirectly 2,100 jobs to our community; and

WHEREAS the Council has steadfastly supported and will continue to support the public operation and maintenance of the Monorail system and that all workers connected to the project be represented by the appropriate unions; be it therefore

RESOLVED that the Council go on record as opposing Initiative 83, the "monorail recall" initiative.

Resolution supporting workers at the Chittenden Locks - Adopted 6/16/04

WHEREAS the working men and women of the Army Corps of Engineers keep the Locks, serving Puget Sound, Lake Union and Lake Washington, operating in a safe and efficient manner; and

WHEREAS their work is currently being undermined by decreased staffing; and

WHEREAS the Locks are a critical component of water traffic, linking the Puget Sound to Lake Union and Lake Washington, it is vital that the Locks are fully staffed and running 24 hours a day, 7 days a week; and

WHEREAS safety and security of the marine industry and boaters needs to be of utmost importance to the Locks, therefore, any plans to make the Locks a "self service" operation must be stopped; and

WHEREAS only the current workers have the experience to maintain the unique Locks equipment thereby keeping the Locks operating safely, therefore all civilian contracting-out plans must be stopped; be it therefore

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council supports increased staffing, continuance of the 24/7 operation, and strongly opposes any "self service" operation or contracting out Locks workers, and wholeheartedly agrees to stand in solidarity with our sisters and brothers at the Chittenden Locks.

Resolution supporting HUD Section 8 Funding - Adopted 7/21/04

WHEREAS the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is refusing to pass along to housing authorities the Section 8 funding authorized by Congress; and

WHEREAS as a result, some housing authorities are running out of funds to maintain the current number of rent vouchers, local governments are scrambling to find money to fill the funding gaps, Section 8 rents in many areas are rising and some low-income Section 8 tenants are already losing their homes; and

WHEREAS the Bush 2005 budget proposal would eliminate an additional \$1.7 billion from the Section 8 program. This continues an unbroken pattern of funding cuts that commenced immediately after the Carter Administration and has the potential of forcing 250,000 low-income families with children, frail elderly and persons with disabilities from their homes; and

WHEREAS the longer-term budget plans of the Bush Administration would cause the loss of 700,000 vouchers national by 2009; and

WHEREAS about 16,000 households currently receive Section 8 assistance from Seattle Housing Authority and the King County Housing Authority and an additional 5,263 households are on the waiting list for openings at the King County authority and 6,700 at the Seattle authority; and

WHEREAS while the exact impact of the current and contemplated budget cuts upon tenants in the Seattle and King County agencies cannot be determined, the scope of cutbacks makes it certain that a significant number of families and vulnerable individuals will lose their homes and it makes it highly likely that eligibility standards will be tightened, that existing tenant protections will be eliminated and that waiting lists will become even longer; be it therefore

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council, AFL-CIO, calls upon HUD to make available the funds already approved by Congress and calls upon the President and the Congress to fully fund the Section 8 program; and be it finally

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council, AFL-CIO, endorses the "Save Section 8" rally sponsored by The Tenants Union at noon on Tuesday, August 3, at the Federal Building Plaza in Seattle, and encourages its affiliates to support the rally.

Resolution in support of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers - Adopted 7/21/04

WHEREAS a core responsibility of the King County Labor Council, AFL-CIO is to advocate and support laws that protect working people in King County Washington; and

WHEREAS the King County Labor Council, AFL-CIO is the central body of a labor organization representing more than 13 million working people; and

WHEREAS within King County there are two Class One railroads involved in the transportation of hazardous material (HAZMAT) by rail; and

WHEREAS a significant amount of these hazardous chemicals are transported in King County through our cities, neighborhoods, and in very close proximity to our homes, schools, hospitals and public access areas; and

WHEREAS hazardous materials are subject to uncontrolled release if their containers are ruptured during a derailment or collision; and

WHEREAS multiple crossings at grade are utilized within high population and/or public crossings; and

WHEREAS railroads in King County are operating Remote Control Locomotive Technology (unmanned locomotives) across crossings at grade, with as little as two weeks of training; and

WHEREAS heretofore Class One railroads have manned their locomotives with Locomotive Engineers, who are rigorously certified and fully qualified by standards established by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA); and

WHEREAS the FRA has allowed railroads to establish a program of lessened training and qualification requirements for remote control operators, without regard to the wishes of the Citizens of King County; and

WHEREAS the FRA has issued only non-binding "guidelines" to govern the day-to-day operational practices involving Remote Control locomotives; and

WHEREAS railroads have failed to adopt all of the provisions of these FRA "guidelines" for operational practices; and

WHEREAS Point Protection is absolutely necessary to the safe operation of any railroad operating practice; be it therefore

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council, AFL-CIO supports the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen, an affiliate of the International Brotherhood of Teamster Railway Labor Conference, and hereby admonishes all railroads within the limits of King County and it's cities to use fully qualified and Federally Certified Locomotive Engineers to operate all Locomotives; and be it further

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council, AFL-CIO calls on the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission to move forward with Proposed Rulemaking (CR-102) under Docket Number TR-040151 providing Point Protection for Washington State citizens as part of Chapter 480-62 WAC; and be it finally

RESOLVED that in the interest of public safety, the President of the King County Labor Council, AFL-CIO, will send a letter to Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission in support of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen, a Division of the Railway Conference of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, in support of these proposed rules.

Resolution supporting the Families & Education Levy - Adopted 8/18/04

WHEREAS many students in Seattle are not meeting standards to graduate; and

WHEREAS many children are not entering school ready to learn; and

WHEREAS the problem is especially severe among children of color and children from low income families; and

WHEREAS only two out of three students in Seattle Public Schools graduate and only half of students of color graduate; and

WHEREAS 55% of Latino children do not pass the Developmental Reading Assessment administered in grade 1; and

WHEREAS 93% of African American 10th graders failed to meet the 2002-03 math WASL standard; and

WHEREAS 56.6% of Native students in the class of 2002 in Seattle Public Schools did not complete high school; and

WHEREAS the Families & Education Levy will work to close the achievement gap and give every child and every family a chance for success in Seattle Schools; and

WHEREAS the Families & Education Levy provides support for early learning by creating two new pre-school networks, with child care, for 350 4-year-old children each year; and

WHEREAS the Families & Education Levy funds Family Involvement by helping parents help their children with school performance; and

WHEREAS the Families & Education Levy funds Family Support Workers so families can overcome difficulties so they can better meet the developmental needs of their children; and

WHEREAS the Families & Education Levy invests in Out-of-School time to provide extra help for kids not performing at grade level so they have the opportunity of academic achievement, not risky behavior; and

WHEREAS the Families & Education Levy helps High-risk youth with focused case management, and mental and emotional counseling for middle school students in order to reduce delinquent behavior; and

WHEREAS the Families & Education Levy provides school-based health centers in four middle schools and 10 high schools so that student health is not a barrier to learning; be it therefore

RESOLVED that KCLC supports Seattle Proposition One, the Families & Education Levy.

Resolution supporting funding and legislation for the replacement of the Alaskan Way Viaduct & Seawall - Adopted 8/18/04

WHEREAS the Alaskan Way Viaduct and Seawall located on State Route 99 are old, deteriorating and in desperate need of replacement; and

WHEREAS on February 28, 2001, the 6.8 Nisqually Earthquake forced the closure of the Viaduct and the interruption of vehicles and freight movement for numerous days; and

WHEREAS the Viaduct moves 110,000 business and commuter vehicles into, out of, and through Seattle each day and is an essential alternative to Interstate 5, carrying one quarter of the north-south traffic through downtown Seattle each day; and

WHEREAS the Viaduct connects city and regional manufacturing and industrial centers of statewide importance — the Duwamish industrial center and the Ballard-Interbay North industrial center are home to more than 2,700 businesses that employ 82,000 people.

Further, State Route 99 (SR 99) provides connections to the Green River Valley

warehousing and industrial complex in South King County, one of the State's largest employment centers; and

WHEREAS the Viaduct and its corridor are vital to maintaining and increasing the \$32 billion worth of goods that travel through the Port of Seattle each year; and

WHEREAS West Coast container trade is expected to double by the year 2015; and

WHEREAS the Port of Seattle has container terminals, including Terminal 46, adjoining the Viaduct that directly employ hundreds of union workers and it is imperative to maintaining these jobs that there be unimpeded access for container terminal operation, both with a replacement facility and during construction; be it therefore

RESOLVED that KCLC will work toward finding reliable and sufficient state and federal funding for the Alaskan Way Viaduct and Seawall replacement and will support legislation that provides such a source so long as rebuild options ensure the viability of Terminal 46 as a container terminal and the construction impacts are minimized for container terminal operations; and be it further

RESOLVED that KCLC will forward this resolution to the Washington State Labor Council for consideration for adoption.

Resolution regarding the University of Washington "Lease Lid" - Adopted 8/18/04

WHEREAS SEIU Local 925 represents more than 6,500 staff in the University of Washington's academic, research, medical and business operations; and

WHEREAS the University of Washington is lobbying the Seattle City Council to lift the "Lease Lid" in order to expand its operations in the U-District; and

WHEREAS a primary argument of the University is that expanded UW operations will benefit the community by promoting family wage jobs and economic revitalization in the city of Seattle and in the U-District in particular; and

WHEREAS in current contract negotiations with SEIU Local 925, the University is demanding the right to "outsource" University jobs to private companies, scale back overtime rights and link future wages to supervisory performance evaluations, with the potential of undermining family-wage jobs with good benefits; be it therefore

RESOLVED that KCLC will explore common concerns we may share with community organizations who are worried about unchecked growth by the University of Washington, and what position organized labor should take with respect to the "Lease Lid" issue.

Resolution supporting displaced skippers and fishing crews - Adopted 8/18/04

WHEREAS the Deep Sea Fishermen's Union, established in 1912, is committed to improving the working conditions and making long-term investment in the West Coast fisheries for the benefit of multiple generations of fishermen; and

WHEREAS the United States Congress has seen fit to provide financial relief for fishing vessel owners in overcapitalized fisheries, through statutorily authorized or directed individual fishing quotas, special cooperatives, and government loans; and

WHEREAS these measures benefiting vessel owners have been applied to Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands pollock, non-pollock groundfish, halibut/sablefish, and crab fisheries, as well as to West Coast fixed gear sablefish fisheries, among others;

WHEREAS these measures have the intended effect of consolidating harvesting capacity, and thereby reducing the number of vessels operating in the affected fisheries;

WHEREAS these measures provide generous compensation to vessel owners whose vessels are removed from the affected fisheries, and ensure increased revenues to those vessel owners who continue to operate;

WHEREAS these measures provide safety benefits to those who remain in the fisheries, and contribute to effective fisheries conservation and management producing improved yields;

WHEREAS these measures are not entirely positive, but rather, result in the loss of hundreds of at-sea jobs for skippers and crew members, while providing these working men and women with no compensation, and guarantee little or no individual quotas or similar benefits to skippers and crews who remain in the fisheries;

WHEREAS government loans are repaid by the assessment of a "landing tax" which is considered a gross stock expense and is therefore deducted before crew shares are calculated, resulting in the remaining crews repaying a percentage of the loan that puts their fellow crewmembers out of work;

WHEREAS certain vessel owners have resisted, and certain members of Congress have failed to assist, efforts by the Deep Sea Fishermen's Union to address these inequities through federal legislation providing reasonable relief for skippers and crew displaced by statutory/regulatory rationalization and buyback programs;

WHEREAS certain vessel owners and federal regulators have resisted efforts by the Deep Sea Fishermen's Union to secure fair and equitable guaranteed individual quotas for skippers and crews in rationalized fisheries;

WHEREAS the fisheries of the United States should, as a matter of policy, sustain accessible, family-wage jobs; and

WHEREAS it is in the long-term best interest of the United States to provide for and enhance job transition and opportunities for all working families; be it therefore

RESOLVED that KCLC, while recognizing the benefits of such federal measures, can support them only if they provide equitable treatment for skippers and crews; and be it further

RESOLVED that KCLC strongly supports efforts of the Deep Sea Fishermen's Union to secure equitable treatment for skippers and crews who lose their jobs due to federal statutory/regulatory rationalization or buyback measures and for those skippers and crews who remain in the fisheries. In particular, the KCLC supports the efforts of Deep Sea Fishermen's Union and the skippers and crew of the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands fisheries to obtain displaced worker assistance in the form of either a one-time cash-out or a comprehensive re-education and job placement program with support stipend during re-training, and to obtain fair and equitable individual fishing quotas for skippers and crews who remain in quota-based fisheries and similar benefits for skippers and crews who remain in cooperative-based fisheries; and be it further

RESOLVED that KCLC will work actively with the Deep Sea Fishermen's Union and public officials to ensure that legislation is enacted to provide fair and equitable dislocation allowances, job training opportunities and job placement for every displaced skipper and crew member, and to require fair and equitable treatment of skippers and crews in any future quota-based or cooperative program; and be it finally

RESOLVED that KCLC will forward this resolution to the Washington State Labor Council for consideration for adoption.

Resolution regarding informational picketing on the funding crisis in veterans' health care - Adopted 9/15/04

WHEREAS there are 640,520 veterans in the state of Washington, including 78,483 disabled; and

WHEREAS the VA health care system is experiencing an unprecedented upsurge in demand from veterans from the Vietnam and Gulf Wars (half of whom have applied for disability due to what the government calls "mysterious illness"), and now young veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as elderly veterans accessing their benefits for the first time due to the prohibitive price of prescription drugs; and

WHEREAS Congress has chronically under-funded the VA and per patient spending on veterans' health care has declined every year for the last ten years; and

WHEREAS the Bush Administration's proposed spending on veterans' benefits for fiscal year 2005 is 3.8 billion dollars short of demand, according to the Disabled Veterans, Paralyzed Veterans of America, and Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Mr. Bush has proposed, if elected, to cut VA funding even more in 2006; and

WHEREAS the VA is a national treasure of public healthcare infrastructure, the largest comprehensive integrated healthcare system in the country, staffed by dedicated and talented workers who take pride in their service; and

WHEREAS VA administration is not speaking out about the fiscal crisis and scarcity imposed on them, affecting both veterans and employees (one-third to one-half of whom are veterans); and

WHEREAS the American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO, Local 3197, is holding an Informational Picket from 3:30 to 5:30 P.M. on Tuesdays, September 14th and 28th, and October 12th and 26th, at the Seattle VA Medical Center, 1660 S. Columbian Way, to inform the public of the VA funding crisis; and

WHEREAS AFGE Local 3197 has invited veterans, trade unionists and the public to stand with them in solidarity at these pickets; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council will endorse this Informational Picket and recommend to all affiliates endorsement and participation.

Resolution supporting Social Security Administration workers - Adopted 10/6/04

WHEREAS the Social Security Administration (SSA) is currently in contract negotiations with the American Federation of Government Employees Council 220; and

WHEREAS the existing agreement between the parties contains an extensive network of employee rights and protections that the union has painstakingly negotiated over many years; and

WHEREAS the Social Security Administration has submitted, and is adhering to, a crude union-busting proposal that would dismantle and eliminate virtually all these rights and protections; and

WHEREAS "Unity," the newsletter of AFGE Council 220, states that "it is clear that SSA hopes to take advantage of the anti-union, anti-federal employee attitude of the current (Bush) administration; and

WHEREAS the union is fighting back courageously, but needs the full support of organized labor because it cannot lawfully strike or conduct other concerted job actions; and

WHEREAS the millions who rely on Social Security have both a self interest and a moral duty to support the skilled, experienced and caring front-line workers of the agency who provide them with timely and accurate service on sensitive and complex issues; be it therefore

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council expresses its complete solidarity with the AFGE and its members at the Social Security Administration in their struggle to retain their hard-won contract protections; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Council will contact our Congressional delegation, urging that they intervene to compel SSA to bargain in good faith; and be it finally

RESOLVED that this resolution be sent to all Council affiliates with a request that they too urge the Congressional delegation to intervene in support of good faith bargaining by the SSA.

Resolution supporting the Passenger Security Act of 2004 (HR 4970) - Adopted 11/3/04

WHEREAS the federalization of airport screening functions has substantially improved public safety and enhanced public confidence in the safety of air transportation; and WHEREAS the Aviation and Transportation Security Act, 49 U.S.C. §44920, explicitly permits the Transportation Security Administration to accept applications from airport operators seeking to “opt out” of a federal screening workforce; and

WHEREAS a reversion to private company performance of screener functions would reduce safety and erode confidence in the federal government’s ability to protect citizens from acts of terrorism and, therefore, not be in the best public interest; and WHEREAS the Transportation Security Administration has issued a directive prohibiting the federal airport security screener workforce from the right to collectively bargain; and WHEREAS federal airport screeners employed by the Transportation Security Administration have the right to be treated with the same dignity and respect that the federal government and private employers should accord to all its employees; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council supports the right of Transportation Security Administration security screeners to join a union and engage in collective bargaining; and be it further

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council supports the Passenger Security Act of 2004, HR 4970, which would protect the traveling public by maintaining a federalized screening work force in our nation’s airports; and be it further

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council supports the American Federation of Government Employees in its efforts to promote and maintain the screening workforce as federal government employees; and be it further

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council will actively seek co-sponsorship from our elected representatives in the U.S. House of Representatives for the Passenger Security Act of 2004, HR 4970, and will actively promote a petition for signatures from the public requesting to keep flying safe by keeping federal airport security screeners; and be it finally

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council will forward this resolution to the Washington State Labor Council and the national AFL-CIO.

Resolution opposing CAFTA and supporting the *Derail CAFTA Northwest Tour* - Adopted 11/3/04

WHEREAS the Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) would continue the assault on manufacturing workers around the nation and would threaten the jobs and livelihoods of construction workers, government employees and postal employees; and WHEREAS CAFTA also threatens the rights of citizens to use the democratic process to enact laws and regulations in the public interest, including prevailing wage laws, project labor agreements on government construction and local or union purchasing preference; and

WHEREAS CAFTA could require the privatization of federal, state and local government services; and

WHEREAS CAFTA labor provisions fail to meet core international labor organization standards, provide ineffective enforcement mechanisms and are woefully inadequate to prevent continued job flight from the U.S., or to protect workers in Central America; and WHEREAS CAFTA rules on trade in services significantly alters regulation of services and grants greater control to business in regulating and providing services such as healthcare, construction, telecommunications, education, tourism, water distribution and energy services; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council, AFL-CIO stands in strong opposition to CAFTA and other free trade agreements based on the failed NAFTA model; and be it further

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council, AFL-CIO urge all affiliated unions to help educate their members about CAFTA, to join the millions of people throughout America expressing their objection to the free trade model, and to work to ensure the defeat of CAFTA in Congress; and be it finally

Resolved that the King County Labor Council, AFL-CIO will actively advance a new agenda for international trade in solidarity with workers and civil society groups by supporting the Central American Labor delegation, as well as local labor groups, by endorsing the Derail CAFTA Northwest Tour and assisting with turnout for the Tour by publicizing the Tour events to affiliates, including a possible action on November 12th outside a congressional representative's office if they are still "one the fence," and the public panel presentation on November 13th.

Resolution supporting the UNITE HERE rally on November 10, 2004 - Adopted 11/3/04

WHEREAS UNITE HERE members across the U.S. and Canada are engaged in struggles for affordable health care, safe workloads, immigration reform, job security and protection from outsourcing, respect on the job and the right to organize free of coercion and intimidation; and

WHEREAS the hotel industry is becoming increasingly multinational, consolidated and expansive; calling for a coordinated response from the labor movement; and

Whereas this collective struggle is now particularly heated in San Francisco, where 4,000 hotel workers have been locked out by their employers are in need of broad support; and

WHEREAS the labor movement of King County recognizes that due to industrial consolidation, concessions given in San Francisco and other cities are likely to be demanded locally as well; and

WHEREAS the labor movement of King County recognizes that the issues workers are struggling for here, such as outsourcing and worker abuse by supervisors, are the same as those faced elsewhere; therefore be it

Resolved that members of the King County Labor Council will stand in solidarity with UNITE HERE at a rally to be held on Wednesday, November 10th, at Westlake Square (6th Ave. & Westlake Ave.) at 4:30 P.M.; and be it further

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council will continue to support UNITE HERE in their efforts to win fairness and respect for its members.