

## Resolutions adopted by MLKCLC in 2005

Resolution supporting increased funding for arts and heritage - 1/19/05  
Resolution supporting an Inaugural Day protest in Seattle - 1/19/05  
Resolution supporting the 2005 Seattle Latino Education Parent Summit - 2/16/05  
Resolution supporting a National César E. Chavez holiday - 3/2/05  
Resolution supporting labor solidarity - 3/16/05  
Resolution supporting Iraqi labor leaders' visit - 4/6/05  
Resolution condemning the Hacienda Luisita Workers Massacre in the Philippines - 5/18/05  
Resolution supporting adherence to a non-discrimination policy by Lake Washington School District school property lessees - 6/15/05  
Resolution to fend off a "Takings" initiative in Washington State - 7/6/05  
Resolution supporting an immediate end to the occupation of Iraq - 7/20/05  
Resolution supporting labor unity and local labor bodies - 7/20/05  
Resolution in support of U.S. Labor Against the War - 8/17/05  
Resolution in support of Canadian Media Guild Members - 9/21/05  
Resolution on federal labor mobilization - 9/21/05  
Supporting constituency groups - 10/19/05  
Supporting the People's Hurricane Relief Fund & Oversight Committee - 12/7/05  
Concerning the right of public and private sector workers to organize and bargain collectively - 11/9/05  
Supporting the People's Hurricane Relief Fund & Oversight Committee - 12/7/05

### **Resolution supporting increased funding for arts and heritage - Adopted 1/19/05**

WHEREAS the hotel-motel special excise tax approved by Washington State voters in 1997 has been and will be used by King County to fund arts and heritage programs from 1992 to 2012, at reduced levels from 2001 to 2012 and will finance the construction of Qwest Field from 2015 until 2020, with unspecified uses beyond 2020; and

WHEREAS in 1995 the King County Council adopted "a special stadium sales and use tax upon the retail sale and use within the county by restaurants, taverns and bars of food and beverages" of five-tenths of one percent (0.5%); and

WHEREAS the special stadium sales and use tax took effect January 1, 1996 and under RCW 82.14.360(9) will expire when the bonds issues for construction of Safeco Field are paid off; and

WHEREAS King County hotel-motel tax raised \$15.6 million in 2003, \$15.2 million in 2002 and \$15.1 million in 2001; and

WHEREAS as a result of stadium funding methods, the City of Seattle has been receiving less admission tax revenue and King County will receive less hotel-motel revenue, both of which are sources of arts and heritage funding; and

WHEREAS a November 2004 study by GMA Research Corp. prepared for ArtsFund found the arts and heritage had a \$844 million positive economic impact in King County in 2003; and

WHEREAS the arts and entertainment have been an important source of union and living wage jobs for actors, musicians, stage crew members, dancers, singers and related craftspersons; and

WHEREAS many of the area arts institutions are in grave economic difficulty (for instance, Empty Space Theatre had to suspend its 2004-2005 season in order to raise funds and construction of McCaw Hall - home of the Seattle Opera and the Pacific Northwest Ballet has not been completely funded); and

WHEREAS changes to state law enable the re-direction of the aforementioned taxes after pledged uses expire are being publicly discussed; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council encourages the state legislature in any revision of the King County hotel-motel tax beyond 2020 to include or allow for increased funding for the arts and heritage; and be it further

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council urges the City of Seattle and King County to work with cultural and sports organizations on any attempt to renew the special stadium sales tax beyond 2012, or whenever the bonds are paid off; and be it further

RESOLVED that KCLC support a renewal of either of the above taxes with a contingency upon a major portion of the proceeds going to fund arts and heritage over a sustained period of time; and be it finally

RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Washington State Labor Council, Mayor of Seattle, the Seattle City Council, the King County Executive and the Metropolitan King County Council with a letter of support.

### **Resolution supporting an Inaugural Day protest in Seattle - Adopted 1/19/05**

WHEREAS President Bush claims that his re-election is a mandate to push through an extreme anti-worker agenda, beginning with privatization of the social security system, which would gamble away our hard-earned retirement funds on Wall Street; and

WHEREAS ATU members and working families throughout the country are paying the price in lives and in tax dollars for President Bush's continued occupation of Iraq; and

WHEREAS labor and social justice organizations throughout the country are mobilizing for protests against the Bush agenda on January 20, the date of Bush's inauguration ceremony; and

WHEREAS the themes of the Seattle protest include:

- Don't privatize social security
- Fund jobs, healthcare and public services, not war and occupation
- Bring the troops home now, and
- Stand against racism here and abroad - defend immigrant rights; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council endorse the Seattle Inauguration Day protest at the Federal Building at 2nd Avenue and Marion Street at 5:00 p.m. on January 20th; and be it further

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council will publicize the protest to its affiliates.

**Resolution supporting the 2005 Seattle Latino Education Parent Summit - Adopted 2/16/05**

WHEREAS the racial disparity in graduation, failure, and expulsion rates between white students and students of color (otherwise known as “The Achievement Gap”) is an on-going problem and, with respect to Latino students – with 47% not graduating, according to the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction – is an especially glaring and important problem to be addressed; and

WHEREAS Campana Quetzal, a group of Latino educators, parents, youth, and concerned citizens, is planning a two-day summit entitled The 2005 Seattle Latino Education Parent Summit to be held on March 18-19 to develop strategies and strengthen relationships for the purpose of ending this achievement gap for Latino students; be it therefore

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council supports this event and will publicize it to our membership; and be it further

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council will provide \$200 toward the cost of the 2005 Seattle Latino Education Parent Summit; and be it finally

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council will pursue involvement from interested members in the on-going planning for, and actual events comprising this summit.

**Resolution supporting a National César E. Chavez holiday - Adopted 3/2/05**

WHEREAS César E. Chavez, the founder and former president of the United Farmworkers of America, AFL-CIO, stood as one of the heroic figures of the 20<sup>th</sup> century who inspired millions in our nation into action for economic justice, civil rights and political empowerment; and

WHEREAS César E. Chavez led the historic “Si Se Puede” non-violent movement for farm workers’ rights which included strikes, a five-year boycott of grapes which won the first labor contracts in the grape fields, personal fast in protest of the use of dangerous pesticides by agribusiness, and historic legislation including the outlawing of the back-breaking short handle hoe in 1975, and the establishment of the Agricultural Labor Relations Act, the first law governing farm labor organizing in the continental United States; and

WHEREAS César E. Chavez was dedicated to building a movement of poor working people that extended beyond the fields and into cities and towns across the nation; and WHEREAS the legacy of César E. Chavez, like the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., serves to educate, inspire, and serve as a model for all Americans and the generations to come; and

WHEREAS the successful campaign to make César E. Chavez’s birthday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, an official paid state holiday in California and a day of service and learning in their public schools, has launched a national movement calling on Congress to do the same with an official federal holiday for César E. Chavez, which would be the first time in history that a labor leader, Mexican-American and Latino would be honored in this way; and

WHEREAS this movement has now won César E. Chavez holidays in Arizona, Texas, Colorado, New Mexico, Michigan and Utah in addition to California; be it therefore

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council, AFL-CIO, will officially join the National Coalition for a César E. Chavez National Holiday and in so doing become an active partner alongside Latino, labor, civil rights, interfaith, and other leaders, elected officials,

celebrities and organizations who are working together to ensure that the legacy of César E. Chavez is recognized and celebrated throughout our nation with a federal paid holiday and a day of service and learning in our schools.

#### **Resolution supporting labor solidarity - Adopted 3/16/05**

WHEREAS our labor movement is facing sharper struggles due to the current political environment of increasing corporate power and global union busting; and

WHEREAS we face tremendous challenges to protect and improve labor standards, Social Security, our wages and working conditions, pensions and health care; and  
WHEREAS our labor movement needs to organize millions of workers, regain strength and density and renew solidarity; and

WHEREAS to meet these challenges and move forward with changes in our labor movement, we need change, unity and broad alliances; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council support and encourage the AFL-CIO, county and state federations and council, all affiliated and unaffiliated unions and all constituency organizations to involve our entire memberships in the discussion of positive ways to unite to build our movement; and be it further

RESOLVED that we continue this discussion to work together and unite; and be it finally

RESOLVED that the AFL-CIO and all unions engage in concerted efforts to resolve differences within the labor movement based on mutual respect, cooperation and the good of the labor movement as a whole.

#### **Resolution supporting Iraqi labor leaders' visit - Adopted 4/6/05**

WHEREAS U.S. Labor Against the War, an organization comprised of over 100 local, county, state and national labor bodies, is sponsoring a U.S. tour of Iraqi labor leaders from three of the most important labor organizations in Iraq, from May 6th through May 22nd; and

WHEREAS this tour will provide the first opportunity for trade unionists, working people and the general public in the United States to hear directly from courageous Iraqi trade unionists who struggled for years under Saddam Hussein's repression and now have stepped forward to organize workers under the difficult circumstances of violence and occupation, and

WHEREAS the purpose of the tour is both to educate U.S. trade unionists about the conditions faced by Iraqi workers and their unions, and to build direct worker-to-worker, union-to-union solidarity and support for Iraqi trade unionists in their efforts to build a progressive secular Iraq, and

WHEREAS co-sponsorship by the King County Labor Council of an event featuring these Iraqi labor leaders would be invaluable in helping to publicize it and ensure a good turnout from the labor community, be it therefore

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council will co-sponsor an event featuring Iraqi labor leaders, which will take place on a date in May 2005 yet to be finalized, but very likely on May 18th, and publicize the event to the fullest extent possible.

#### **Resolution condemning the Hacienda Luisita Workers Massacre in the Philippines - Adopted 5/18/05**

WHEREAS on November 16, 2004, in an assault on striking farm workers and sugarcane workers of the Cojuanco family-owned Hacienda Luisita, 14 people were killed, more than 100 unjustifiably arrested and more than 440 are still missing, and

WHEREAS since that massacre, at least 32 human rights activists have been either abducted or assassinated, including Father William Tadena, who was murdered because of his open support for the slain workers, and attorney Romeo Capulong survived an assassination attempt, and

WHEREAS these brutal attacks were committed by the Tarlac Philippine National police and the 69<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, under the direction of Dept. of Labor and Employment Secretary Patricia Santo Tomas, the large landowning Cojuanco family and the administration of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, and

WHEREAS despite these ongoing assaults, the workers are courageously continuing to strike for their demands, be it therefore

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council condemns the brutal actions by the Cojuanco family, DLSE Secretary Santo Tomas, the Philippine National Police, the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Macapagal Arroyo regime against the striking workers, and be it further

RESOLVED that we extend our deepest solidarity and sympathy to the workers, their families and their unions, and be it further

RESOLVED that we call upon President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo to publicly denounce these political killings and to initiate a timely, thorough and impartial investigation leading to the prosecution of the perpetrators, uphold the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL) and pursue peace talks with the National Democratic Front of the Philippines, and be it further

RESOLVED that we advise this Council's affiliated unions, the Washington State Labor Council and the AFL-CIO of these blatant human rights abuses and urge them to join us in taking action along the lines suggested in this resolution, and be it finally

RESOLVED that we encourage the Washington State Labor Council and the AFL-CIO to forward said resolution to the United Nations and the U.S. Human Rights Commission, as well as to both the President of the United States and the President of the Philippines.

### **Resolution supporting adherence to a non-discrimination policy by Lake Washington School District school property lessees - Adopted 6/15/05**

WHEREAS the Lake Washington School District allows Antioch Bible Church to perform religious ceremonies at one of its public schools nearly every Sunday for the past six years, and

WHEREAS the leader of this church, Rev. Ken Hutcherson, spews hateful and bigoted propaganda opposed to gay people and marriage equality, creating a climate of hate and intolerance, and

WHEREAS the King County Labor Council is on record in support of marriage equality and non-discrimination involving other fundamental human rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people, be it therefore

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council calls on the Lake Washington School Board to revise their policy to require all school property lessees to adhere to School District non-discrimination policies.

**Resolution to fend off a "Takings" initiative in Washington State - Adopted 7/6/05**

WHEREAS a sweeping "takings" initiative (Measure 37) became law in Oregon in November 2004, and

WHEREAS special interests in Washington like the BIAW, the Farm Bureau and Tim Eyman are rumored to be running a similar initiative in Washington in 2006, and

WHEREAS such an initiative would create a process by which property owners can receive monetary compensation for any action government takes to prevent unlimited development or be exempted from current regulations, and

WHEREAS according to the Oregon Secretary of State, Measure 37 will cost Oregon \$344 million dollars a year in administrative costs alone - before paying even one claim, and

WHEREAS such an initiative could bankrupt already struggling local governments across Washington State and burden taxpayers, and

WHEREAS further reducing government budgets could lead to cuts in publicly funded jobs such as transit workers, teachers, librarians, police, EMTs and fire fighters, and

WHEREAS such budget deficits could also decrease funding for public works projects such as road-building and maintenance, and

WHEREAS developers and businesses such as Wal-Mart stand to benefit from exemptions from land use regulations, allowing development to occur that would displace local businesses and undermine good paying union jobs, and

WHEREAS development under such an initiative would primarily take place in rural areas and rural development is less likely to be conducted with union labor than urban development, and

WHEREAS we find that just compensation for land owners is already required by the U. S. Constitution and this initiative goes way beyond such compensation, therefore be it RESOLVED that we oppose a sweeping takings initiative being run in Washington because it could defund local governments and displace good paying union jobs.

**Resolution in support of an immediate end to the occupation of Iraq - Adopted 7/20/05**

WHEREAS the King County Labor Council AFL-CIO supports the men and women in our armed forces even if we do not support President Bush's decision to go to war in Iraq, and

WHEREAS the Bush Administration carried out an invasion of Iraq under the pretense that Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction, and therefore posed an immediate threat to the security of the United States, and yet no evidence has been found that Iraq had these weapons or the capability to deploy them, and

WHEREAS the war and military occupation of Iraq have cost the lives of over 1,500 U.S. and allied troops, the wounding and disabling of thousands more, the deaths by some estimates of over 100,000 Iraqi civilians, and the devastation of the entire country, and

WHEREAS many U.S. military personnel are union members or family of union members, who have faced extraordinary danger with courage and made huge sacrifices in this war, and bringing them home now is the best means of protecting them, and

WHEREAS the Bush Administration has used the Iraq war and national security hysteria as a pretext to create a climate of fear at home, to restrict civil liberties and to attack the rights of workers and unions, and

WHEREAS the war and occupation have cost over \$200 billion dollars, leading directly to cuts in social and human services, education and even benefits and health care for the veterans of this and other conflicts, while war spending has lined the pockets of immensely wealthy anti-labor corporations, and

WHEREAS conditions of poverty, inequality and political repression must be confronted through civil, economic and diplomatic means and will not be solved through the exercise of military might, and

WHEREAS seven national unions (SEIU, AFSCME, CWA, APWU, GCIU, NPMHU/LIUNA, UE) and numerous state labor federations, central labor councils, local unions and other labor bodies, representing millions of union members, have passed resolutions calling for our troops to be brought home, and

WHEREAS AFL-CIO President John Sweeney has asked the labor movement at every level to discuss important issues, challenges and problems we confront in preparation for the national convention in July, and given that the issues of war and peace, and the destruction of the social safety net, are among the most important challenges we confront, therefore be it

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council calls on President Bush to bring our troops home from Iraq immediately, and to reject the doctrine and practice of preemptive war, and be it further

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council calls on President Bush to support the democratic trade unions and the rights of Iraqi workers to democratically form trade unions to improve their economic and social base and recognize that the formation of democratic unions is a critical element in the development of a democratic process, and be it further

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council calls on President Bush and the Congress to immediately turn over responsibility for security and policing to the Iraqi people in an effort to relieve the American troops of this ongoing responsibility, and be it further

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council calls on Congress and President Bush to expand benefits for veterans and assist those affected by military base closings, including a G.I. Bill for returning Iraq veterans and a VA housing program that meets current market needs and adequate funding of the VA health care system, and be it further

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council will assist union members and their families who are called upon to serve in Iraq and returning veterans by identifying and providing information about resources and services available to meet their needs, by advocating for their interests, and by protecting their jobs, seniority and benefits, and calls upon other unions, labor councils and state labor federations to organize such support at the local level, and be it further

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council calls on the National AFL-CIO to demand an immediate end to the U.S. occupation of Iraq, the return of U.S. troops to their homes and families, and the reordering of national priorities toward peace and the human needs of our people, and be it further

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council calls on Congress and President Bush to re-direct our economic and technological resources, which are being misspent in Iraq, toward economic policies which will improve wages and working conditions and protect labor rights, train workers and young people for good jobs in the changing U.S. economy, rebuild our national infrastructure, and develop energy independence, and be it further

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council calls on Congress and President Bush to restructure our armed forces into a deterrent, rather than offensive force, with peace keeping and civil administration, which will work together with the UN to combat terrorism and protect the security of the American people, and be it finally

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council shall make this resolution available to its members and to our elected political representatives.

### **Resolution in support of labor unity and support for local labor bodies - Adopted 7/20/05**

WHEREAS the mission of the CLCs and Area Labor Federations is to help improve the conditions of employment for union members and help build a just society by organizing, political action and working with compatible community based organizations, and

WHEREAS unity at the local and national level is critical to the mission of the CLCs and Area Labor Federations to fight back against the unprecedented attacks on working people, and

WHEREAS it is well-resourced labor councils and area federations that have had the most success in the labor movement at building united coalitions to win for workers at a local level, and

WHEREAS these coalitions fundamentally broaden the base of advocates fighting for change to include all union members, people of color, faith-based institutions, immigrant communities and social justice organizations, and do so in a way unique to both the labor movement and the nation, and

WHEREAS it is this strategy of inclusive coalition-building that has shown the most promise in achieving the goal of building power to directly combat a new generation of international corporate monoliths and their political allies, and

WHEREAS this success is nascent, growing and has the potential to achieve critical mass, and

WHEREAS we support the affiliation of all unions with the AFL-CIO, therefore be it RESOLVED that the delegates to the AFL-CIO convention call on all partners to work together collectively now and in the future, and be it further

RESOLVED that the delegates to the AFL-CIO convention commit to building locally developed regional power centers by:

- allocating \$3.74 million to fund full-time political directors and mobilization coordinators in 50 key metropolitan areas, developing new regional labor power centers

and providing support to multi-union organizing campaigns that can leverage local political power,

- allocating \$1 million for a national-level leadership development and technical assistance program to promote the growth of new leadership at the local level and to facilitate the replication of the newest, best strategies nationwide, and
- authorizing labor councils and area federations to develop inclusive institutions incorporating all unions and their allies in order to best fight to build power for all working people.

### **Resolution in support of U.S. Labor Against the War - Adopted 8/17/05**

WHEREAS in January 2002, an emergency labor conference was convened in Chicago to organize and coordinate opposition in the labor movement to an Iraq war, resulting in the formation of U.S. Labor Against the War (USLAW); and

WHEREAS USLAW now has over 100 affiliated labor organizations, and has worked effectively to advocate, educate and mobilize within the U.S. labor movement for the following principles:

- A just foreign policy that will bring genuine security and prosperity to working people and seek to solve disputes by diplomacy rather than war.
- An end to U.S. occupation of foreign countries.
- Redirecting the nation's resources from inflated military spending to meeting the needs of working families.
- Supporting our troops and their families by bringing the troops home now and by providing decent compensation, veterans' benefits and domestic policies that prioritize the needs of working people who make up the bulk of the military.
- Protecting workers' rights, civil rights, civil liberties and the rights of immigrants.
- Solidarity with workers and their organizations around the world; and

WHEREAS in June 2005, USLAW organized and conducted a highly successful tour of major U.S. cities by a delegation of Iraqi labor leaders, including Seattle; and

WHEREAS at the recent AFL-CIO convention, USLAW, working with delegates and the AFL-CIO Executive Board, was instrumental in the adoption by an overwhelming majority of delegates of an anti-war resolution calling for a "rapid return" of U.S. troops from Iraq — marking the first time in history that the AFL-CIO has taken a position in opposition to major U.S. foreign policy or military action; and

WHEREAS in order to continue its important work, USLAW depends on the financial support provided by the affiliation fee paid by its member organizations; be it therefore RESOLVED that KCLC affiliate with USLAW; and be it further

RESOLVED that KCLC notify affiliates of this action and encourage their affiliation with USLAW as well.

### **Resolution in support of Canadian Media Guild Members - Adopted 9/21/05**

WHEREAS 5500 members of the Canadian Media Guild have been locked out by the Canadian Broadcasting Company since August 15, 2005; and

WHEREAS negotiations between the union and the company are deadlocked, primarily over the company's demand for a free hand in contracting out work traditionally done by union members; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Martin Luther King, Jr. County Labor Council expresses its solidarity with the locked-out workers and calls on Robert Rabinovitch, president and CEO of the Canadian Broadcasting Company, 181 Queen Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 1K9, Canada, to withdraw the company's contracting out proposal and to negotiate a good faith settlement with the Canadian Media Guild; and be it finally

RESOLVED that we urge our affiliated unions and the national AFL-CIO to adopt similar expressions of solidarity with these locked-out workers and to convey these expressions to Mr. Rabinovitch.

### **Resolution on federal labor mobilization - Adopted 9/21/05**

WHEREAS the President's Management Agenda includes orders to privatize or outsource 850,000 federal jobs; and

WHEREAS in May 2003, the Administration rewrote the rules and procedures for reviewing federal jobs for privatization and outsourcing (OMB Circular A-76) in ways that dramatically favored private contractors, even if they cost the government more than continued in-house performance and would result in endangering the public interest and increasing costs to taxpayers; and

WHEREAS the Bush Administration has eliminated provisions passed by both the House and Senate that included the right of federal employees to appeal contracting out decisions to GAO and the courts when they have evidence of wrongdoing by agencies – rights which private companies eager to profit from government work already have; and

WHEREAS the Bush Administration denied civil service rights and protections to newly federalized airport security employees, refuses to recognize the union, and acts in a harsh, arbitrary, and discriminatory way toward this segment of the federal workforce; and

WHEREAS in 2002, the Bush Administration insisted on legal authority to eliminate most forms of collective bargaining and other union representational activity for the newly established Department of Homeland Security (DHS), which would become the third largest federal agency, comprised of 22 formerly separate agencies including the INS, the Coast Guard, the Border Patrol, FEMA, Customs, and TSA among others; as well as establishing new "pay for performance," classification, adverse action, and appeals systems, to be formulated at the discretion of management and Administration appointees; and

WHEREAS under the "National Security Personnel System," civilian employees in the Department of Defense will lose annual pay adjustments, RIF retention rights connected to length of service or veterans' status, and their right to appeal adverse actions to an independent third party outside the agency; and DoD management will have the right to unilaterally void any provision of an existing collective bargaining agreement, substituting an "agency issuance" delivered unilaterally by management; and

WHEREAS the Bush Administration has authored legislation (variously known as the Civil Service Modernization Act and the Working for America Act) that it intends to introduce by fall 2005 that would extend these restrictions on collective bargaining, and impose highly subjective "pay for performance" to the rest of government; and

WHEREAS through its appointees at the Social Security Administration, the Bush Administration has tried to force career civil servants to spread disinformation regarding the financial health of Social Security as part of the Administration's attempt to

dismantle the program through privatization; and furthermore, the SSA has forced a new contract on AFGE that lays the legal groundwork to dismiss employees who do not wish to go along with these unethical practices; and

WHEREAS the Bush Administration has packed the Federal Service Impasses Panel with anti-union members who have found in favor of management almost all of the time; and WHEREAS Congress is poised to end the 20 year-old prohibition against using taxpayer dollars appropriated for providing veterans health care to pay contractors or to fund contracting studies, so that the Administration can divert precious patient care funds to contractors; and

WHEREAS instead of addressing chronic understaffing at VA health care facilities, the agency is replacing dedicated and cost-effective federal employees with contractors (for example, the VA Puget Sound Compensation and Pension Service, which performs 1,000 disability eligibility exams per month, plans to turn this work over to the private corporation called QTC Management, Inc.); and

WHEREAS in spite of the fact that the federal prison inmate population has increased six-fold in the past 25 years as a result of mandatory sentencing laws, the Bureau of Prisons has set staffing levels at just 89% adequacy; and as a result there has been a 34% increase in assaults against corrections officers by inmates without a weapon, and a 64% increase in assaults by inmates with a weapon; and the Bush Administration has refused to address these safety issues even though the BOP acknowledges that its prisons are 41% above rated capacity; and

WHEREAS on August 12, 2005 a Federal District Court ruling found that the DHS personnel rules set to go into effect on August 15 violated the rights and protections given to employees by Congress, do not ensure collective bargaining as required by law, and seek to absolve the DHS of contract obligations by reserving their right to declare any part of any collective bargaining agreement null and void; and also criticized procedures to dismiss, demote, and discipline employees; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Martin Luther King, Jr. County Labor Council will fully support, by notifying and mobilizing for participation of its affiliates' membership, a Rally and March in November 2005, focused on educating the labor community and the public about the harmful effect that contracting out will have on public service, about the attacks on collective bargaining contained in the management agenda of the current administration, including the National Security Personnel System, and the Working for America Act of 2005, and the role of federal worker unions in safeguarding the public interest.

### **Resolution in support of constituency groups - Adopted 10/19/05**

WHEREAS the National AFL-CIO at its national convention made a commitment to include more diversity in its board; and

WHEREAS the National AFL-CIO has followed up this commitment by adding nine new executive officers to its board representing women and people of color; and

WHEREAS the National AFL-CIO has encouraged its national affiliates, state federations and central labor bodies to do the same; and

WHEREAS the Martin Luther King, Jr. County Labor Council has a long-standing commitment to building diversity in its council; and

WHEREAS the Martin Luther King, Jr. County Labor Council Diversity Committee is working to build support for our affiliated constituency groups with a plan for 2006 to mobilize the community and rank-and-file union members in their efforts to build the bridge between labor and our community; be it therefore

RESOLVED that the Martin Luther King, Jr. County Labor Council support the Diversity Committee's efforts by allowing the constituency groups to table outside of the January 18, 2006 delegates meeting, mailing copies of all the constituency groups' membership forms to its affiliates, encouraging its affiliates to provide three memberships for members of their organization to become involved in each constituency group and asking for their support of the constituency groups by allowing them to talk to their membership and table at membership meetings.

### **Resolution concerning the right of public and private sector workers to organize and bargain collectively - Adopted 11/9/05**

WHEREAS the Department of Defense is preparing to implement the National Security Personnel System (NSPS), despite the fact that the nearly identical Homeland Security personnel system was just rejected for the second time by a Bush-appointed District Court Judge; and

WHEREAS these two personnel systems will take away collective bargaining rights from the 850,000 civilian employees in the Departments of Defense and Homeland Security and the parallel Working for America Act will take away collective bargaining rights from the remaining 850,000 federal employees; and

WHEREAS the justification given for these personnel systems – that unions are incompatible with national security – contradicts the experience of public employees, including the mostly unionized first responder workforce who risk life and health attending to local and national disasters that inflict our communities; and

WHEREAS if these systems are implemented, public services and national security will suffer since only unions can offer the safe collective voice that public servants need to guard against patronage and expose waste, fraud and abuse that harm taxpayers, clients and the nation alike; and

WHEREAS unions in the private sector also serve the public interest as they bring safety and democracy into the workplace, raise wages and living standards, protect consumers and stockholders by exposing corporate corruption, promote civic participation and reduce expensive litigation and work stoppages through collective bargaining; and

WHEREAS 57 million U.S. workers say they would join a union if they had the opportunity, while private sector employers pay millions of dollars to union busting law firms and illegally fire, threaten or coerce 20,000 American workers behind closed doors each year to stop them from forming unions; and

WHEREAS the Employee Free Choice Act would strengthen the freedom to choose a union by requiring private sector employers to recognize a union after a majority of workers sign cards authorizing union representation, would provide for mediation and arbitration of first-contract disputes and would authorize stronger penalties for violation of the law when employers interfere with workers forming unions; and

WHEREAS there is consensus in the national labor movement that the Administration's aggressive attack against all Federal employees is linked to the struggle of private

sector employees to assert their basic human right to have a voice at work through a democratic process; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Martin Luther King, Jr. County Labor Council endorses the actions on December 10, 2005 initiated by the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE), Washington State Jobs with Justice (JwJ) and the Washington State Labor Council (WSLC) to educate the public and our representatives on these issues, and will mobilize our members to participate in those actions; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Martin Luther King, Jr. County Labor Council will distribute copies of this resolution to all of its affiliates, urging that they pass similar resolutions and participate in the December 10th actions; and be it finally

RESOLVED that the Martin Luther King, Jr. County Labor Council directs its officers to meet with the members of the Martin Luther King, Jr. County Council, the Seattle City Council and other local governmental bodies in this county to gain passage of resolutions memorializing Congress to oppose NSPS and the Working for America Act and to pass the Employee Free Choice Act.

### **Resolution in support of the People's Hurricane Relief Fund & Oversight Committee - Adopted 12/7/05**

WHEREAS the Puget Sound Katrina Relief and Reconstruction Committee (PSKRRC) is a coalition of unions and community groups that has formed to support the political campaign and related relief effort being waged by Louisiana-based Community Labor United (CLU); and

WHEREAS the CLU is working with the predominantly African-American poor and working class people of New Orleans who are being denied the right to return and reconstruct their communities; and

WHEREAS the government is using the hurricane as a pretext to undermine wages and working conditions and cut social welfare programs not only in the Gulf Coast but across the country; and

WHEREAS the CLU network has launched the People's Hurricane Relief Fund and Oversight Coalition (PHRFOC) to ensure the hurricane survivors aren't stripped of their homes, land, jobs and rights by anti-union, government-subsidized corporations participating in the Bush administration's "rebuilding process;" and

WHEREAS the PHRFOC is putting forth the following demands:

- The right of return for all displaced people. The government must provide assistance for all families to be reunited, and all neighborhoods rebuilt.
- People's participation in all aspects of the reconstruction process. The \$50 billion of Federal reconstruction funds must be put into a Victims' Compensation Fund like the one created for the victims of 9/11. Survivors must be represented on all decision-making boards that fund relief or reconstruction. Transparency and accountability must be maintained.
- Affordable housing, living wage jobs, quality healthcare and education. A massive public works project must be undertaken to rebuild the Gulf Coast, under union wages and conditions. Displaced workers and residents must have priority for all reconstruction jobs.

- Justice for people neglected or abused by the government. A United Nations poverty expert called the Bush administration's planning for and response to Katrina a "gross violation of human rights;" and

WHEREAS the Puget Sound Katrina Relief and Reconstruction Committee is promoting working class solidarity and self-reliance through the political fight for these demands and the shipment of urgently needed provisions; and

WHEREAS the ILWU in Seattle has joined forces with the CLU and International Longshoremens' Association Local 3033 in Louisiana to set up warehouses in Seattle and Baton Rouge as collection and distribution centers for donations of relief and reconstruction supplies; and

WHEREAS the Martin Luther King, Jr. County Labor Council has previously endorsed the efforts by ILWU Locals 52 and 19 to initiate this grassroots labor-to-labor, community-to-community effort to directly aid other working-class people; and

WHEREAS the Port of Seattle has cooperated in this effort by donating a space for the Burt Nelson Memorial Katrina Relief Warehouse, maritime employers have contributed needed machinery and equipment, and the Union Pacific Railroad is being approached to donate shipping of our containers of relief aid to the CLU via ILA Local 3033's relief warehouse in Baton Rouge; and

WHEREAS labor's help is needed to build an independent national movement to compel government officials and politicians to meet the needs of the people most impacted by Katrina; be it therefore

RESOLVED that the Martin Luther King, Jr. County Labor Council endorse the demands of the People's Hurricane Relief Fund and Oversight Coalition and lend its name in publicizing those demands and the related relief effort in the Puget Sound area; and be it further

RESOLVED that the MLKCLC urge its affiliates to do the same and to donate money, materials and volunteers to the relief effort organized by the Puget Sound Katrina Relief and Reconstruction Committee; and be it finally

RESOLVED that the MLKCLC support ILWU's efforts to secure a grant from the AFL-CIO's national Katrina Relief Fund to assist with the operating expenses of Seattle's Burt Nelson Memorial Relief Warehouse and with any shipping and handling costs not otherwise donated.