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Resolution for Organizing a Response to the Department of Homeland Security's New Rules Regarding No-Match Letters

WHEREAS, the Department of Homeland Security's new regulations regarding "no-match" letters will put the jobs and rights of thousands of immigrant workers in jeopardy unless we act now; and

WHEREAS, the Social Security Administration is expected to send out approximately 140,000 "no-match" letters this fall to employers who under the new rules will be pressured to fire workers who cannot resolve their social security number discrepancies within 90 days; and

WHEREAS, many employers will unjustly fire their immigrant workers upon receipt of these no-match letters for fear of being sanctioned and will also use these letters to their advantage to intimidate their workers and thwart union organizing drives; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Homeland Security has made it clear it will back up the new regulations with increased Immigrant and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids at workplaces; and

WHEREAS, the future of the labor movement will undoubtedly rely on the activity of immigrant workers, who are leading on the frontlines of today's labor struggles and have increased their membership in unions by 30 percent over the last 10 years in contrast to a 9 percent decline in native-born workers' membership; and

WHEREAS, immigrant communities and worker centers around the country are setting up rapid response networks to organize and protest against the raids and "no-match" firings, presenting an opportunity for organized labor to play a crucial role in defending workers against this most egregious attack on all of labor,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the San Francisco Labor Council opposes Homeland Security "no-match" regulations as an attack on immigrant workers and unions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the San Francisco Labor Council opposes ICE raids in general, and specifically rejects the deportation of immigrant rights activist Elvira Arellano; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the San Francisco Labor Council will endorse the Bay Area Rapid Response Network and participate by sending at least four delegates from our organization, including two organizers or officers and two rank-and-file members, to one of the labor strategy sessions in Oakland on September 13 and in San Francisco on September 20.

Submitted by Frank Martin del Campo, LCLAA, and unanimously endorsed by the San Francisco Labor Council on September 10, 2007.

Respectfully,



Tim Paulson
Executive Director
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