

SFLC Resolution Opposed to SEIU's Attempted Hostile Takeover of UNITE HERE and its Jurisdiction

Whereas an internal dispute within UNITE HERE over constitutional reform and union democracy has led to a minority faction within the union to secede, in violation of the International Constitution; and

Whereas SEIU has seized on this division within UNITE HERE as an opportunity to raid UNITE HERE's members and jurisdiction; and

Whereas an affiliation agreement between SEIU and this secessionist faction provides for organizing in UNITE HERE's traditional jurisdiction, namely hotels, gaming, and food service; and

Whereas slick mailings, followed up with live and automated phone calls have encouraged UNITE HERE members in cities across North America (including San Francisco) to leave UNITE HERE and join a "new union" which is an affiliate of SEIU; and

Whereas SEIU's reprehensible behavior not only undermines UNITE HERE's local unions now preparing for industry-wide negotiations in Atlantic City, Chicago, Los Angeles and San Francisco, but also will be exploited by anti-union corporations and interest groups opposed to the Employee Free Choice Act; and

Whereas the actions of SEIU International leadership threatens longstanding cooperative relationships and undermines solidarity between UNITE HERE locals and SEIU locals;

Therefore be it Resolved that the San Francisco Labor Council:

1. Condemns the intervention in the internal concerns of UNITE HERE by President Andy Stern and top SEIU leadership, and their actions designed to attack and weaken UNITE HERE;
2. Condemns the campaign being waged against UNITE HERE and its locals with the reliance on corporate-type anti-union tactics;
3. Demands that SEIU cease all actions and/or support in raids of gaming, hotel and food service bargaining units and publicly acknowledge UNITE HERE's organizing jurisdiction in these areas across North America;
4. Encourages SEIU local leaders, members and staff to repudiate the SEIU affiliation agreement that seeks to steal UNITE HERE's jurisdiction and denies UNITE HERE a future;
5. Directs the Council's Executive Director to send a copy of this resolution to Andy Stern, Anna Burger and the Change to Win leadership, the SEIU International Executive Board, and John Sweeney and the AFL-CIO Executive Committee.
6. Urges the California Labor Federation and other Labor Councils and bodies throughout the nation to adopt the same position as this Council.

Submitted by Mike Casey, UNITE HERE 2, and adopted by the Executive Committee of the San Francisco Labor Council by acclamation on April 6, 2009 and unanimously by the Delegate Body of the San Francisco Labor Council on April 13, 2009.

Respectfully,



Tim Paulson
Executive Director

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