



Building Power by Building Bridges

Resolution No. _____

WHEREAS:

Unions are strengthened by building and maintaining bridges to interfaith clergy, civil rights groups, social justice organizations, immigrant rights advocates, women's organizations, and others in the community with shared concerns for public service, public services and a fairer, more equitable economy and society; and

WHEREAS:

Despite the union's concern for public service and public services, organized labor is too often seen as being concerned exclusively with our members' interests, rather than with the interests of all working people and all vulnerable communities who have been oppressed by unjust economic and social policies; and

WHEREAS:

Building coalitions adds strength to AFSCME's position and pressure on decision-makers who want to respond to their constituencies. If elected officials, for example, perceive that their proposed changes in public policy are being opposed only by a few disgruntled employees and their union, they will probably proceed. If, however, they are bombarded with letters, postcards, petitions, visits, telephone calls, and news articles calling attention to and opposing their proposals, they might be convinced to stop them; and

WHEREAS:

Solidarity is a shining principle of the labor movement, labor unity by itself is not enough. Labor unity must be combined with strong engagement of diverse allies and broad public support. In light of the challenges facing AFSCME, Council 36 and all organized labor today, unity with like-minded progressive organizations is more vital than ever; and

WHEREAS:

Council 36 has been recognized as a model within AFSCME for its innovation and success in creating diverse and effective labor-neighbor coalitions that represent the interests of AFSCME members, other unions, and all residents of Southern California, yet recognizes the need to continue to build on those successes; and

WHEREAS:

Our enemies are strong, but we are stronger together.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

AFSCME District Council 36 shall continue to emphasize solidarity and collaboration with community organizations to meet the challenges that face our members.

Submitted by:

Executive Board, AFSCME District Council 36