

RECEIVED APR 22 2016

Clean Water for Flint, Michigan, and All People is a Human Right

SEIU Resolution

WHEREAS, the Republican Governor of Michigan, Rick Snyder, nullified democratic elections in Flint by removing the mayor and city council, and installing his own appointees; and

WHEREAS, those appointees then switched Flint's water supply from Lake Huron, which is fed by fresh water springs, to the polluted Flint River to save a relatively small amount of money; and

WHEREAS, many of Flint's 9,000 children were then exposed to poisonous lead from pipes corroded by the river water, which can cause irreversible brain damage, including learning disabilities and other health problems; and

WHEREAS, many of Flint's 100,000 adult residents have also been exposed to lead, doctors have discovered half a dozen other toxins in the water and there has been an outbreak of Legionnaires Disease; and

WHEREAS, state officials knew about the toxic water since the summer of 2014 but issued a press release declaring "Flint water is safe to drink"; and

WHEREAS, despite their public declarations, state officials provided water coolers for government buildings and reconnected General Motors to the Lake Huron water supply, because the Flint water was corroding car parts in their factory; and

WHEREAS, according to the Environmental Protection Agency, 15 parts per billion is an unsafe level of lead, and some tests have shown 4,000 parts per billion in Flint's water; and

WHEREAS, the poisoned water has destroyed home values and potential for business development in the city; and

WHEREAS, the city of Flint is majority people of color and working class, and this is an economic, social and racial injustice;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that as working people we stand in solidarity with the people of Flint during this public health catastrophe; and

RESOLVED, that we demand all resources and efforts necessary for restoring clean, healthy drinking water to the people of Flint as quickly as possible; and

RESOLVED, that the people of Flint who have been poisoned by the water, especially the children, should receive full, no-cost healthcare for the duration of their lives; and

RESOLVED, that people who have suffered economic hardships, such as the devaluation of their homes and job losses, receive full compensation and any required job training and placement; and

RESOLVED, that we call for a full, independent investigation into the causes of the Flint water crisis and accountability for those responsible, including criminal prosecution; and

RESOLVED, that we declare clean, affordable water is a human right, and it is one of government's most sacred responsibilities to protect this resource for all.

Submitted by 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East.