

San Francisco Living Wage Coalition

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Resolution on Racism of Mass Incarceration, Drug Wars, and Police Killings

WHEREAS the last 40 years has brought the United States unprecedented levels of gross disparity in: income, wealth, economic security, social mobility, education, housing, nutrition, chronic disease, and even life expectancy, which have disproportionately impacted Blacks and Latinos,

WHEREAS these racially-biased gross disparities of the last 40 years have been accompanied by a gigantic parallel campaign of mass incarceration and a so-called war on drugs, also aimed at Blacks and Latinos,

WHEREAS this racial bias has affected every step of the law-enforcement/justice ladder, from racially selective neighborhood surveillance, more arrests, more severe charges, lack of pre-trial release, poor representation and higher conviction rates in trials, longer sentencing, less frequent release on parole, and a higher rate of recidivism,

WHEREAS those formerly incarcerated or convicted then face a lifetime of not only job discrimination that leaves them unemployed or trapped in the dirtiest, most dangerous and lowest-paid jobs, but also ineligible for many forms of public assistance in income, housing, nutrition, and education, and the right to vote, and

WHEREAS Black and Latin neighborhoods are further terrorized by police killings of unarmed victims which go unpunished, sending the message that, like lynching in the past, these actions are condoned at high levels,

WHEREAS many CARA members, and their children and grandchildren, could easily fit the profile of people who are stopped, arrested, beaten, incarcerated, and even killed on the basis of race by police, and

WHEREAS these four decades of systematic attacks on Blacks and Latinos have had the effect of intimidating and discouraging a fight-back against the huge growth of economic disparities suffered by all workers of all races in the United States and which threaten our children and grandchildren even more than ourselves,

Therefore, RESOLVED that CARA continue its support of Prop 47 and support further statewide legislative efforts to de-felonize charges for drug and other non-violent crimes and

RESOLVED that CARA strengthen its ongoing commitment to its statewide budget advocacy partners as they support bail reform and alternatives to incarceration and oppose unnecessary new jail and prison construction, and

RESOLVED that CARA encourages its CATS to support the efforts of local groups to oppose inappropriate increased police surveillance of Black or Latino neighborhoods, oppose construction of unnecessary new prisons or jails, oppose job or benefit discrimination against those formerly incarcerated, or demand justice in cases of police killing of unarmed victims, and support community policing in our neighborhoods.