

TOPIC: ENDORSEMENT OF EL SUPER BOYCOTT

SUBMITTED BY: BOYLE HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

WHEREAS, United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) represents hundreds of employees at El Super stores throughout Southern California, including El Super stores 12 and 15 which are located in the City of Los Angeles; and

WHEREAS, The UFCW has called a consumer boycott of El Super markets in protest of El Super’s refusal to negotiate a fair contract for these workers; and

WHEREAS, El Super employs low-wage and predominantly Latino workers from this community who have been working without a fair union agreement Since September 2013; and

WHEREAS, El Super workers are fighting for good jobs in our community, seeking adequate paid sick leave, seniority rights, guaranteed 40-hour work-weeks for full-time employees, and a fair wage; and

WHEREAS, El Super implemented its “last, best, and final offer” without fulfilling its bargaining obligations, and after workers told them it was unacceptable by voting overwhelmingly to reject it and authorizing their union to call a strike if necessary; and

WHEREAS, El Super’s “last, best, and final” offer provides for less paid sick leave than is currently mandated by California state law; and

WHEREAS, On December 12, 2014, El Super workers voted – by a more than 3-1 majority – in favor of continued UFCW representation; and

WHEREAS, El Super workers voted overwhelmingly in favor of union representation in the face of an aggressive “Vote No” campaign by the company that included captive audience meetings conducted by El Super CEO Carlos A. Smith; and

WHEREAS, after the recertification vote, the union promptly sent a letter to the company asking for them to return to the bargaining table; and

WHEREAS, El Super outright rejected that request, refusing to meet its legal bargaining obligations; and

WHEREAS, Fermin Rodriguez, a cashier with nine years of quality service with to the company and who was an outspoken supporter of the El Super workers’ both at the bargaining table and on the picket line was recently terminated by the employer for his statements in support of his fellow workers; and

WHEREAS, Community Groups, including Pueblo y Salud, Strategic Action for a Just Economy, and Strategic Concepts in Organizing and Policy Education have endorsed the UFCW’s boycott, as they found that El Super is not only disrespectful to its workforce but to the community which it serves. They have added their voice to highlight that County health inspectors, over a seven-month period in 2014, identified and documented over 340 violations of environmental health regulations established to protect consumers and public health;

- RESOLVED, The Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council endorses the call for a consumer boycott of El Super markets.
- RESOLVED, The Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council supports the creation of good jobs in our communities that provide living wages, adequate paid sick leave, seniority protections, and enough guaranteed hours so full-time workers can earn enough to support their families.
- RESOLVED, The Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council calls upon El Super to return to the bargaining table and enter into an agreement that meets those goals.
- RESOLVED, The Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council calls upon El Super markets to uphold and maintain the highest standards with respect to the cleanliness and maintenance of their facilities in the interest of this community's public health.
- RESOLVED, The Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council pledges to honor the boycott lines, spread the word about the boycott within our community, and to ask our constituents to support the boycott by joining workers on the boycott lines and to visit boycottelsuper.org and complete the letter to company CEO Carlos A. Smith.