



AFT Local 1904 Resolution to support Occupy Wall Street

Passed Unanimously 10/12/2011 at the General Union Meeting

WHEREAS, The Occupy Wall Street protest and sympathetic actions in cities across the United States express the real distress that the current economic malaise is causing for the majority of the population; and

WHEREAS, there is a growing awareness that the pain and sacrifice has not been borne equitably across all economic strata; and

WHEREAS, those most responsible for the economic stress our country is now enduring have not been held accountable for their actions; and

WHEREAS, public sector employees, reeling from reduced state and federal revenues due to economic contraction, have been weakened and reduced at a time of increasing need; and

WHEREAS, this current crisis has been used as a pretext to layoff, cut the wages and restrict the rights of public-sector workers; and

WHEREAS, while the Occupy Wall Street movement was initiated by youthful activists, organized labor and progressive organizations have embraced and supported this movement as coincident with their own goals for a fair and equitable economy as well as reform and accountability measures to mitigate further and repeated crises; and

WHEREAS, we are in an unemployment crisis where almost 14 million people are unemployed, including nearly 20 percent of African American men and over 25 percent of our nation's youth; and

WHEREAS, corporations are permitted to spend unlimited resources to influence elections while stockpiling over a trillion dollars rather than creating jobs;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that AFT Local 1904 members find the actions of Occupy Wall street an appropriate expression of discontent for all Americans especially and particularly for those who have been left behind in our current economic circumstances; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFT Local 1904 understands that Occupy Wall Street is calling for systemic change and joins its brothers and sisters of the AFL-CIO, Teamsters, CWA, New York State United Teachers and other state and national federations and Unions, strongly commends and supports the Occupy Wall Street protest and the solidarity actions of organized labor; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we support the activists' non-violent efforts to seek a more equitable and democratic society not based on corporate greed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the local, through its members and representatives, will urge the NJ Council of State and College Locals and the New Jersey AFT State Federation to similarly express strong support of and solidarity with the protest and the larger movement; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that Local 1904 will endeavor to support and assist the protest in the furtherance of the demand for an economy that works for all people, including a strong and effective public sector, by using whatever resources Local 1904 members find appropriate.