



CITY COUNCILMEMBER
RIGEL ROBINSON
DISTRICT 7

CONSENT CALENDAR
July 25, 2023

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Councilmember Rigel Robinson (Author), Councilmember Sophie Hahn (Co-Sponsor), Councilmember Mark Humbert (Co-Sponsor), Mayor Jesse Arreguin (Co-Sponsor)
Subject: Resolution Supporting the Unionization of Peet’s Coffee Workers

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution in support of workers at Peet’s Coffee unionizing under the Industrial Workers of the World IU 460

BACKGROUND

In June 2023, three East Bay Peet’s Coffee locations, including the Telegraph and Dwight location in Berkeley, joined a growing movement of union organizing in the food and beverage industry and filed petitions for union elections under the Industrial Workers of the World IU 460 with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB).¹

Peet’s Coffee workers have expressed frustration with wage stagnation, understaffing, and unsafe working conditions, and have filed for a union election to address these issues. Their demands include fair worker compensation, expanded and accessible worker benefits, safe workplace environments, and stringent accountability standards for management.²

Peet’s Coffee has been an integral part of Berkeley’s history and culture ever since it opened its first store on Vine Street in 1966. The City of Berkeley has long been a supporter of workers’ rights, including the right to organize and choose to join a union. The unionization efforts at Peet’s Coffee play an important role in furthering that support for workers at a company with such a rich history in Berkeley and the Bay Area.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

None.

¹<https://www.berkeleyside.org/2023/06/12/peets-coffee-union-efforts-oakland-berkeley>

² <https://www.peetslaborunion.org/our-demands>

CONTACT PERSON

Councilmember Rigel Robinson, (510) 981-7170
Rachel Alper, Legislative Assistant

Attachments:

1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE UNIONIZATION OF PEET'S COFFEE WORKERS

WHEREAS, workers at three Peet's Coffee locations in the East Bay, including the location at Dwight Way and Telegraph Avenue in Berkeley, have filed a petition for a union election under the Industrial Workers of the World IU 460 with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB); and

WHEREAS, Peet's Coffee workers put their own health at risk by working tirelessly through the COVID-19 State of Emergency to serve Berkeley residents; and

WHEREAS, Peet's workers are demanding fair worker compensation, expanded and accessible worker benefits, safe workplace environments, and stringent accountability standards for management; and

WHEREAS, unionization allows frontline service workers — disproportionately women, Black and Latinx workers, and other disadvantaged groups — to fight for fair pay and working conditions when these conditions are not being met by management; and

WHEREAS, workers across the country at major chains including Starbucks, Trader Joe's and Amazon have recently won major union victories; and

WHEREAS, the first established Peet's Coffee location is located in Berkeley and Peet's Coffee is headquartered nearby in Emeryville; and

WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon Peet's Coffee management to strengthen its commitment to its workers and to the Berkeley community; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that Peet's Coffee management is urged to recognize the union representation petitions submitted by its employees seeking to unionize under the Industrial Workers of the World IU 460.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Berkeley supports the unionization efforts of the Peet's Labor Union and the unionization efforts of underpaid essential workers in Berkeley and across the country.

