



Max Anderson  
Councilmember District 3

CONSENT CALENDAR  
June 22, 2010

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
From: Councilmember Max Anderson  
Councilmember Kriss Worthington  
Councilmember Darryl Moore  
Councilmember Jesse Arreguin  
Subject: Oppose Berkeley Bowl's Management's Effort to Reduce Employee Benefits and Decertify the Union

RECOMMENDATION

Oppose Berkeley Bowl's management's effort to reduce employee benefits and management's efforts to decertify the union.

BACKGROUND

In 2003, the employees of Berkeley Bowl unionized their workers. Also in 2003, the City Council passed a resolution supporting the workers efforts unionizing at the original Berkeley Bowl.

Today, it is important for the City Council to continue supporting the workers by opposing Berkeley Bowl's management's efforts to reduce employee benefits and decertify the union.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

CONTACT PERSON

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Councilmember Jesse Arreguin 510 981-7180

RESOLUTION NO. XX

SUPPORTING THE BERKELEY BOWL EMPLOYEES' RIGHT TO UNIONIZATION, DEMANDING THAT THE BERKELEY BOWL OWNERS CEASE AND DESIST IN THEIR ANTI-UNION ACTIVITY AND PROPAGATION OF ANTI-UNION EFFORTS, ALLOW THEIR EMPLOYEES TO FREELY AND INTELLIGENTLY CHOOSE UNIONIZATION, AND RESPECT WORKERS RIGHTS BY KEEPING THE BERKELEY BOWL UNION.

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley is a union town; and

WHEREAS, Berkeley Bowl employees have gained unionization despite overt opposition by management and owners; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, the City Council has acted and the City of Berkeley has officially boycotted such employers as Skates, Marina Marriott, and Claremont Hotel & Spa due to union/employee rights hostility by those employers; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley supported Berkeley Bowl employees union recognition by the card check election process; and

WHEREAS, Berkeley is witnessing classic anti-union tactics by Berkeley Bowl management that mirror the ugly methods employed in the past by coal companies, textile mills, chemical plants, and other manufacturing employers. Captive mandatory meetings with employees, firings, threats and coercion are just a few anti-worker tactics Berkeley Bowl management is utilizing in order to crush the employees' desire and ability to have a fair voice in their workplace; and

WHEREAS, UFCW-Local 5 has a grievance pending over the wrongful termination of a former Berkeley Bowl employee named Olimpia Moreno, who was fired for alleged mispricing of Bowl products and federally found to be innocent of company policy violations; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley should again support the pro-union efforts being made by Berkeley Bowl employees;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Berkeley strongly supports the Berkeley Bowl employees right to unionization, encourages its citizenry to support them as well, and demands that the Berkeley Bowl owners cease and desist in their anti-union activity and allow their employees to freely and intelligently choose unionization, and respect workers' rights by keeping the Berkeley Bowl Union.