



Kate Harrison
Councilmember District 4

CONSENT CALENDAR
October 15, 2019

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Councilmembers Kate Harrison and Cheryl Davila
Subject: Resolution in Support of the 2019 United Auto Workers General Motors Strike

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a resolution in support of the United Auto Workers General Motors strike for fair wages, affordable quality healthcare, and job security.

BACKGROUND

On September 16, 2019, 50,000 United Auto Workers (UAW) went on strike. The labor union, one of the largest in the nation, is fighting for fair wages, affordable and quality healthcare, and job security. The strike is the largest of any union in over 12 years and is expected to continue into the foreseeable future.¹

In 2018, General Motors (GM) made billions in profits and was bailed out by the American people in 2009. However, GM is in the process of closing a number of U.S. assembly plants. In recent decades, GM has shifted substantial production to Mexico and temporary and hourly workers still face significant job and wage insecurity under the tiered system.² CEO Mary Barra is the world's top paid auto CEO bringing in roughly \$21 million annually. That breaks down to \$281 for every \$1 the average GM employee earns.³

The Berkeley City Council stands in solidarity with UAW workers in their struggle for living wages, job security and a just climate transition. The Council also recently

¹ Chris Isidore, "Nearly 50,000 UAW workers go on strike against GM, America's biggest automaker," CNN Business, September 16, 2019, <https://www.cnn.com/2019/09/16/business/uaw-gm-strike-general-motors/index.html>.

² Graham Rapiere, "The General Motors strike could cost the automaker \$75 million per day if it continues," Business Insider, September 21, 2019, <https://www.businessinsider.com/uaw-strike-cost-general-motors-75-million-every-day-jpmorgan-2019-9>.

³ Ben Klayman, "GM CEO Barra's pay dipped slightly to just under \$22 million in 2018," Reuters Business News, April 18, 2019, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-gm-compensation/gm-ceo-barras-pay-dipped-slightly-to-just-under-22-million-in-2018-idUSKCN1RU2AY>.

committed to electrifying the City's municipal vehicle fleet by 2030 and recognizes and appreciates the critical role auto workers play in building carbon-free vehicles.⁴

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

No impact. Clerk time necessary to send letter.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

No impact.

CONTACT PERSON

Kate Harrison, Berkeley City Councilmember, (510) 981-7140

ATTACHMENTS

1. Resolution
2. Letter

⁴ Berkeley City Council, "An Action Plan for Greening the City of Berkeley Fleet of Vehicles," June 25, 2019, https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/City_Council/2019/06_June/Documents/2019-06-25_Item_36_An_Action_Plan_for_Greening.aspx.

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

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE 2019 UNITED AUTO WORKERS GENERAL
MOTORS STRIKE

WHEREAS, on September 16, 2019, 50,000 United Auto Workers (UAW) went on strike against General Motors for fair wages, affordable and quality healthcare, and job security; and

WHEREAS, UAW is one of the largest labor unions in the nation and the 2019 strike represents the largest of any union in 12 years and is expected to continue into the foreseeable future; and

WHEREAS, General Motors (GM) makes billion in profits and was bailed out by the American people in 2009; and

WHEREAS, despite significant profitability, GM is in the process of closing a number of U.S. assembly plants and temporary and hourly workers under a tiered system continue to face significant job and wage insecurity; and

WHEREAS, CEO Mary Barra is the world's top paid auto CEO bringing in roughly \$21 million annually, or about \$281 for every \$1 earned by an average GM employee.

WHEREAS, the Council recently committed to electrifying the City's municipal vehicle fleet by 2030 and recognizes and appreciates the critical role auto workers play in building carbon-free vehicles.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Berkeley stands in solidarity with UAW workers striking for better wages, benefits and working conditions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be sent to Mr. Eric Heggie, National Field Director, UAW.

Mr. Eric Heggie
National Field Director, United Auto Workers
8000 E. Jefferson Ave.
Detroit, MI 48214

Re: Resolution in Support of the 2019 United Auto Workers General Motors Strike

Dear Mr. Heggie,

We, the Berkeley City Council, wish to express our solidarity with the United Auto Workers during their 2019 General Motors (GM) strike.

The Council supports UAW workers in their struggle for living wages, job security and a just climate transition. We recently committed to electrifying the City's municipal vehicle fleet by 2030 and recognize and appreciate the critical role that auto workers play in realizing a carbon-free transportation future.⁵

Please find enclosed a Resolution in support.

Sincerely,

Berkeley City Council
Mayor Arreguin,
Councilmembers

⁵ Berkeley City Council, "An Action Plan for Greening the City of Berkeley Fleet of Vehicles," June 25, 2019, https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/City_Council/2019/06_June/Documents/2019-06-25_Item_36_An_Action_Plan_for_Greening.aspx.