Committee on Workforce Development

RESOLUTION STANDING IN SOLIDARITY WITH WORKERS AND MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS AS THEY NEGOTIATE A NEW CONTRACT WITH UNITED PARCEL SERVICE (UPS)

WHEREAS, 12,000 members of Teamsters Local 705 work for United Parcel Service (UPS) in Chicago and Cook County; and

WHEREAS, the collective bargaining agreement between Local 705 and UPS expires at midnight, August 1, 2023; and

WHEREAS, Local 705's contract with UPS expires at the same time that contracts expire between the Teamsters and UPS that cover 340,000 workers across the country

WHEREAS, the Teamsters nationally recently elected new leadership, the Teamsters United Slate, on a platform of building a militant and fighting union that can win not only stronger contracts but also a stronger working class, including electing Local 705's own principal officer Juan Campos as International Vice President; and

WHEREAS, the Teamsters, both this new fighting leadership and the militant rank and file, have spent the last year debating, deliberating, and organizing in anticipation for this contract fight; and

WHEREAS, UPS Teamsters are fighting to eliminate the second tier of package car drivers, known as "22.4 drivers," who make less money and have less stability in their jobs and schedules than regular package car drivers, to ensure that all package car drivers are treated the same; and

WHEREAS, UPS Teamsters are fighting to end part time poverty, ensuring that the thousands of UPS employees who work part time are paid dignified wages so they do not have to struggle to make ends meet for themselves and their families; and

WHEREAS, UPS Teamsters are fighting UPS's efforts to outsource deliveries to non-union, precarious "gig" workers who deliver out of the back of their personal vehicles, forcing them to take on the cost and risk of the work while being paid even less than the value of their labor;

WHEREAS, UPS Teamsters are fighting to ensure that UPS workplaces are healthy and safe, guaranteeing that UPS install air conditioning into all of their trucks and warehouses, and increasingly serious concern as climate change continues to create more dangerously hot days; and

WHEREAS, UPS Teamsters are fighting against the use of invasive surveillance technologies like driver-facing cameras that prevent workers from having a single moment of privacy during their workdays; and

WHEREAS, UPS Teamsters are fighting to ensure that UPS recognizes the history of the Black Freedom Struggle by ensuring that Martin Luther King Day and Juneteenth are paid holidays; and

WHEREAS, the fight over the UPS contract is a fight that will affect all working people in Chicago and in the United States;

WHEREAS, the demands that UPS Teamsters are fighting for like living wages, reliable and stable jobs, and healthy and safe workplaces are the same demands that working-class people across Chicago and the U.S. need to improve their lives; and

WHEREAS, 6% of the gross domestic product (GDP) of the US depends on the labor of UPS's employees;

WHEREAS, UPS, which already makes billions of dollars in profits every year, is fighting the union mightily, trying to maximize their corporate profits on the backs of workers; and

WHEREAS, Capitalists, who through financial institutions like Vanguard and BlackRock own a majority of UPS, know that if they create more precarious and dangerous working conditions for these unionized workers, they can make that the model for all working people in this country; and

WHEREAS, while UPS Teamsters hope that UPS will agree to a fair contract, they are prepared to go on strike if need be, and have already authorized a strike by (FILL IN MARGIN NUMBERS WHEN WE HAVE THEM); and

WHEREAS, if UPS Teamsters go on strike, it will be the largest strike in the United States since the last UPS Teamsters strike in 1997; and

WHEREAS, Chicago is a proud Union Town; and

WHEREAS, the vast majority of Chicagoans are working class, who face many of the same issues that these UPS workers do; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Mayor and members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, stand in steadfast solidarity with Teamsters at UPS in Chicago and across the country in their fight for a fair contract; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if these workers find it necessary to go on strike in order to obtain a fair contract from UPS, we will support them in their fight, including joining them on the picket line; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, we encourage all working people in Chicago to stand with these workers in their fight in any way they can.

Carlos Ramirez Rosa (35)

Jeanette Taylor (20)

Byron Sigcho Lopez (25)

Rossana Rodriguez Sanchez (33)

Daniel LaSpata (1)

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