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December 7, 2017

Honorable Mayor Libby Schaaf  
1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, 3rd Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mayor Schaaf,

On behalf of the more than 2 million members of the California Labor Federation, I'm writing to express our unequivocal support for the hard-working women and men of the City of Oakland who are out on strike to fight for a fair contract.

It's never an easy decision for workers to go out on strike. In fact, it's a last resort. But City of Oakland workers were left no other choice given the City's refusal to negotiate a fair and reasonable contract that keeps up with the cost of living.

The data is clear. There is no rational affordability argument that justifies the City's position to not offer workers a fair contract. Neighboring jurisdictions have offered larger salary increases so that their workers are able to keep up with the cost of living, increasing the pay gap between Oakland and many cities in the region. Frankly, this City's position is an affront to each and every worker who does so much to make this city great.

The California Labor Federation is headquartered in Oakland. While we represent working people all across California, Oakland is home. It's an embarrassment that in a city as magnificent as Oakland, there's an administration that stubbornly refuses to do the right thing for the public servants who work day and night to provide residents with the vital services they need.

Your history of attempting to impede bargaining and block fair contracts for workers is deeply disturbing to the entire California labor movement. We stand together firmly in support of our brothers and sisters who represent City employees and with the Alameda Labor Council in demanding that you stop playing politics with the lives of the hard-working public servants who make Oakland great and immediately negotiate a fair contract.

At a time when anti-union forces are seeking to weaken the labor movement at every turn, I can assure you that we will not tolerate this kind of anti-worker bias in our own backyard. Your continued refusal to treat the City of Oakland's workers with respect is completely unacceptable. We support elected officials who stand up for working people. We devote tremendous energy and resources to defeating those who don't.

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It's not too late to do the right thing. I implore you to change direction and return to the bargaining table with a fair contract that shows you respect the working women and men of this great city and that you respect the contributions working people make every day to the future success of Oakland.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Art Pulaski". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "A" and a distinct "P" for "Pulaski".

Art Pulaski  
Executive Secretary-Treasurer

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