

FLINT WATER CRISIS

- WHEREAS:** The Flint water crisis is an unprecedented, man-made disaster , betrayal of the public trust, and a dangerous situation for many families who are not getting the support, resources and education needed; and
- WHEREAS:** The State government’s response has been inadequate in addressing the needs of the most marginalized populations such as immigrant families, low-income residents, and residents living in public housing; and
- WHEREAS:** The long-term medical and educational needs of Flint citizens still require significant study and program development; and
- WHEREAS:** The water crisis in Flint is the result of broader state policies that include long-term disinvestment in Michigan cities, an emergency manager law that nullified local democracy in low-income cities with majority black populations, and an agenda driven by evidently incompetent emergency managers that drove austerity and privatization at the expense of the health, safety, and education of residents; and
- WHEREAS:** While Flint is the most obvious example of these policy decisions, it is not the only community that has been hurt. The Detroit Public School system, also overseen by emergency management, is another high-profile example of destruction caused by the State government in low-income communities of color; and
- WHEREAS:** *Flint Rising*, a coalition of community groups, labor, and progressive allies, has been working to meet the needs of marginalized communities while building an organizing strategy to place power in the hands of residents who were directly impacted by this crisis; and **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**
- RESOLVED:** That AFT Michigan become a labor ally in *Flint Rising*, working in solidarity with the UAW, SEIU, AFSCME, Michigan Nurses Association, and the AFL-CIO, all of whom have members living in Flint, and support community members who are working to improve living conditions in Flint; and **NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER**
- RESOLVED:** That AFT Michigan help in broadening the political narrative of the Flint water crisis, by connecting what's happening in Flint to what's happening in other places like Detroit, Pontiac, and Benton Harbor; and **NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER**
- RESOLVED:** That AFT Michigan support, and keep its membership fully informed about, organizing efforts in Flint aimed at pressuring the government of State of Michigan to provide adequate resources to make our communities healthy and whole; and **NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED: That AFT Michigan support Flint residents by supporting efforts to hold Governor Rick Snyder accountable for the decisions that caused the water crisis and ensure that there are sufficient resources in the State budget to make Flint and its residents whole; and **NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED: That AFT Michigan unequivocally support the repeal of Michigan's Emergency Manager Law PA 436 (2012), and support the Flint community in its ongoing efforts to have Flint declared a federal disaster area; and **NOW THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY**

RESOLVED: That AFT Michigan actively seeks adoption of this resolution, or one that addresses the issues outlined above in a broader national context, at the 2016 AFT National Convention in Minneapolis.

Submitted by:

UM Lecturers' Employee Organization Local #6244

Recommended by Human Rights Committee (May 2, 2016)

Approved by AFT Michigan 74th Convention (May 14, 2016)