RESOLUTION: HONORING HARRY BRITT AND IN SUPPORT OF RENAMING CITY COLLEGE OF SAN FRANCISCO PROPERTY IN HIS NAME

Whereas, on June 24th, 2020 the City and County of San Francisco lost trailblazing activist Harry Britt after a long illness, and

Whereas, Britt's legacy as an activist and leader in San Francisco should be preserved for the inspiration of future generations, and

Whereas, before coming to San Francisco to become a leader in the fight for LGBTQIA liberation, he supported Civil Rights Movement as a young Methodist minister in Chicago and on multiple occasions faced arrest supporting desegregation, and

Whereas, he was appointed to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in January 1979 by Mayor Dianne Feinstein following the assassination of his friend and mentor Harvey Milk and

Whereas, throughout his time on the Board Of Supervisors, he championed the causes of everyday San Franciscans, including rent control and domestic partnership, and

Whereas, he was a strong supporter of affirmative action and comparable worth legislation, and

Whereas, Britt worked with the public health delivery system, the medical community and with community activists to create the San Francisco model of responding to HIV, and

Whereas he built on the gay-labor alliance Harvey Milk had created, and was especially dedicated to furthering the gay-labor alliance, and

Whereas he led the San Francisco Gay Democratic Club, building it into a powerhouse for a generation of progressive LGBT activists, and

Whereas he stood against anti-union attacks, foreign interventions of the Reagan Republicans, and the rise of neoliberal Democrats, and

Whereas he fought for a boycott of Shell, due to the company’s ties to apartheid South Africa, and

Whereas, he helped to build the early Democratic Socialists of America, and

Whereas the interests of workers were always the foundation of his politics, and he was a union activist with our sibling unions SEIU 790 and UNITE/HERE, and

Whereas he propelled years of victories for public workers and solidarity actions in San Francisco, and

Whereas Harry Britt was a fighter whose politics were rooted in the deepest understanding of humanist values, and

Whereas he was a mentor to countless activists, among them members of the City College of San Francisco community, who carry on his legacy in many movements, and
Whereas, Harry Britt was a teacher and counselor who through New College of California worked to make college degrees attainable for those alienated from traditional education, and

Whereas, Harry Britts’ actions and activism embodied a persistent and courageous dedication that our union values and wishes to uphold for ourselves, our students, and the City College of San Francisco community, and now

Therefore, be resolved that the American Federation of Teachers Local 2121 supports the naming of City College of San Francisco property to honor the legacy of Harry Britt.