



City of Cambridge

137.

IN CITY COUNCIL

August 4, 1997

VICE MAYOR BORN
COUNCILLOR DAVIS
COUNCILLOR DUEHAY
COUNCILLOR GALLUCCIO
MAYOR RUSSELL
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
COUNCILLOR TOOMEY
COUNCILLOR TRIANTAFILLOU

WHEREAS: The Senate and House of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, along with the cities of Medford, Malden, Everett, and Melrose have passed resolutions expressing concern and distress over the labor conditions of strawberry workers and commendations to the United Farm Workers of America for their efforts to instigate changes in this inhuman treatment; and

WHEREAS: The City Council of Cambridge would like to join this effort by adopting the following resolution; and

WHEREAS: Farm workers toiling in strawberry fields are among the most exploited workers in the nation; and

WHEREAS: Over twenty thousand women, man and children working in California strawberry fields typically spend ten to twelve hours a day picking fruit from ankle level plants, suffer chronic back pain and injuries, and experience the dangerous effects of pesticide poisoning; and

WHEREAS: Strawberry workers have not received a pay raise above poverty level wages for ten years; and

WHEREAS: Most strawberry workers have few or no medical benefits, have been subjected to sexual harassment and obliged to use bathrooms in the fields that are filthy; and

WHEREAS: A few large "coolers" corporations must shoulder most of the responsibility for establishing a rational system for labor relations in the strawberry industry; and

WHEREAS: Eight large "coolers" exercise great control over roughly two hundred and seventy strawberry growers by supplying them with loans and plants from nurseries, by packing and marketing the crop, by developing varieties of strawberries, by setting the price; and

WHEREAS: Over twenty thousand strawberry workers are tired of laboring under these terrible conditions and seek safety, security and a voice on the job; and

WHEREAS: The United Farm Workers of America are organizing a campaign to provide such safety, security and voice on the job; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City of Cambridge be and hereby commend the United Farm Workers of America for its efforts in protecting strawberry field workers and expresses its indignation at the abuses committed against them; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City of Cambridge call upon area supermarket owners to sign onto the pledge; and be it further

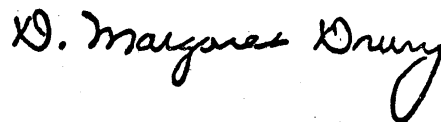
RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to **The United Farm Workers of America** on behalf of the entire City Council.

In City Council August 4, 1997

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;



ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to **The United Farm Workers of America** on behalf of the entire City Council.



City of Cambridge

137.

IN CITY COUNCIL

August 4, 1997

VICE MAYOR BORN

WHEREAS: Farm workers toiling in strawberry fields are among the most exploited workers in the nation; and

WHEREAS: Over twenty thousand women, man and children working in California strawberry fields typically spend ten to twelve hours a day picking fruit from ankle level plants, suffer chronic back pain and injuries, and experience the dangerous effects of pesticide poisoning; and

WHEREAS: Strawberry workers have not received a pay raise above poverty level wages for ten years; and

WHEREAS: Most strawberry workers have few or no medical benefits, have been subjected to sexual harassment and obliged to use bathrooms in the fields that are filthy; and

WHEREAS: A few large "coolers" corporations most shoulder most of the responsibility for establishing a rational system for labor relations in the strawberry industry; and

WHEREAS: Eight large "coolers" exercise great control over roughly two hundred and seventy strawberry growers by supplying them with loans and plants from nurseries, by packing and marketing the crop, by developing varieties of strawberries, by setting the price; and

WHEREAS: Over twenty thousand strawberry workers are tired of laboring under these terrible conditions and seek safety, security and a voice on the job; and

WHEREAS: The United Farm Workers of America are organizing a campaign to provide such safety, security and voice on the job; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City of Cambridge be and hereby commend the United Farm Workers of America for its efforts in protecting strawberry field workers and expresses its indignation at the abuses committed against them; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City of Cambridge call upon area supermarket owners to sign onto the pledge; and be it further

Davis, Duchay, Gallucap, Russell, Sullivan
Consent Order #137 *Tomley + Triantafyllou*

Vice Mayor Born re: Commend the *R-1086*
United Farm Workers of America
for its efforts in protecting
strawberry field workers and
expresses its indignation at
the abuses committed against them.

In City Council August 4, 1997

ORDER ADOPTED