CINCINNATI FEDERATION OF TEACHERS
Resolution on Racial and Economic Justice
1ST Membership Meeting

WHEREAS racism was systemically embedded in American society from our nation's founding when slavery was the dominant base of the economy, and despite historic, and heroic struggles and progress to destroy its basis in law, continues to pervade the social and economic life of our country causing enormous harm and suffering to African Americans and all people of color, and

WHEREAS racism continues to be promoted by employers and the most extremist, anti-labor and anti-democratic forces as a means to divide working people and weaken their political and economic power with the aim of imposing austerity, the destruction of unions and the crippling of all democratic institutions and rights, and

WHEREAS the recent series of shocking incidents of deadly police violence against African Americans throughout the country has thrown the nation into a conversation around policing, criminal justice reform, funding schools, lack of an access to jobs that pay a good living, mental illness, quality health care, adequate housing and fresh food for African-American and all people of color, and

WHEREAS recent events around the country and Department of Justice findings of patterns of civil rights violations and calls for changes in the way African-Americans and people of color are policed has provoked a mass movement of reform, and

WHEREAS because of these incidents AFL-CIO President Rich Trumka made a powerful appeal to the Missouri AFL-CIO Convention in February and later that month at a meeting of the Executive Council in Atlanta the AFL-CIO issued a statement calling on union members to mobilize in the fight to overcome racism throughout society as the key to the fight to raise wages, create jobs and defend the survival of and effectiveness of organized labor, and

WHEREAS to implement this policy the AFL-CIO has established a National Commission on Racial and Economic Justice, with plans to hold discussions on this effort with labor leaders and constituency groups and offer recommendations for change, NOW

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Cincinnati Federations of Teachers applauds, welcomes, and endorses this important initiative of our national leadership and commits itself to help carry out this effort in every way possible, and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Cincinnati Federation of Teachers use the recommendations from the National Commission on Racial and Economic Justice to address racial and economic issues impacting the labor movement in southwest Ohio, and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Cincinnati Federation of Teachers stand with movements like #BlackLivesMatter and Fight for $15, and other groups who are undertaking racial justice and economic justice issues as partners, allies, and fellow community members, and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Cincinnati Federation of Teacher will continue in the fight for an economy centered on improving the lives of all people, as we address racial injustice and economic exclusion in our commitment to the battle of Raising Wages.

PASSED September 9, 2015

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Cincinnati AFL-CIO Labor Council applauds, welcomes, and endorses this important initiative of our national leadership and commits itself to help carry out this effort in every way possible, and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Cincinnati AFL-CIO Labor Council will use the recommendations from the National Commission on Racial and Economic Justice to address racial and economic issues impacting the labor movement in southwest Ohio, and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in the meantime in preparation for the commission's report the Cincinnati AFL-CIO Labor Council will distribute the national AFL-CIO statement to all affiliates and allied groups and encourage discussions at all levels on the importance of labor and its allies in playing a leading role in the national effort to overcome racism and racial injustice, and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Cincinnati AFL-CIO Labor Council will stand with movements like #BlackLivesMatter and Fight for $15, and other groups who are undertaking racial justice and economic justice issues as partners, allies, and fellow community members, and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Cincinnati AFL-CIO Labor Council will continue in the fight for an economy centered on improving the lives of all people, as we address racial injustice and economic exclusion in our commitment to the battle of Raising Wages.