

Resolution No. 10

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT: Constitution & By-Laws

Re: IAFF Officer and Employee Involvement/Influence in Local, State, Federal and Provincial Elections

1 WHEREAS, firefighters have organized into
2 unions at the local level for the objective of
3 protecting their members' rights, safety, benefits and
4 fair compensation; and

5 WHEREAS, these unions have joined
6 state/provincial and federal organizations, and
7 affiliated with the International Association of Fire
8 Fighters (IAFF) in order to achieve their shared
9 objectives by coordinating their resources and efforts
10 at the state/provincial, federal, and international
11 levels; and

12 WHEREAS, the IAFF is a democratically run
13 organization, that places local autonomy and
14 leadership among its most fundamental values; and

15 WHEREAS, these unions achieve their strongest
16 solidarity and support, and are the most effective at
17 achieving their members' objectives, when their
18 members have full confidence that they have, without
19 manipulation or undue influence, selected the
20 individuals they believe will best lead their union;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, firefighters elect officers they
23 believe will best represent their interests at the local,
24 state/provincial, federal, and IAFF levels, regardless
25 of the opinion held by other local, state/provincial,
26 federal or IAFF officers; and

27 WHEREAS, IAFF members pay dues in part to
28 compensate elected officers for their work of

29 protecting members' rights, safety, benefits and fair
30 compensation; and

31 WHEREAS, IAFF member dues should not be
32 used to actively work against a member's interest in
33 supporting or opposing a candidate for union office
34 at the local, state or provincial, federal or IAFF level;
35 and

36 WHEREAS, the IAFF oath of office states, in
37 part, "I will use my good office to promote unity and
38 harmony"; and

39 WHEREAS, the involvement of IAFF elected
40 officers in campaigns advocating for or against
41 candidates in state/provincial or local affiliate
42 elections of officers creates uncertainty, confusion,
43 and division among the membership of IAFF; and

44 WHEREAS, the consequences of such
45 involvement are in direct conflict with the
46 aforementioned duty of said officers to "use my good
47 office to promote unity and harmony"; and

48 WHEREAS, creating disharmony and division
49 within the membership of the IAFF undermines the
50 core mission of supporting and defending our
51 members rights, safety, benefits and fair
52 compensation at the local, state/provincial, federal,
53 and IAFF levels; and be it further

54 RESOLVED, That the IAFF Constitution and By-
55 Laws, Article VI, Section 10 shall be added
56 to state that: "No International Officer, or employee
57 of the IAFF, shall in any way attempt to influence,
58 control, or direct, by lobby, endorsement or other
59 means the election of federal, state, provincial or
60 local affiliate officers, nor shall they expend or use in
61 any way IAFF funds or member dues for that

62 purpose, including, but not limited to: support for
63 travel costs, lodging, meals, per diem or any other
64 form of compensation derived from IAFF funds
65 regardless of their source.”

Submitted by: Local 1965, Mountain View Professional
Firefighters

Local 1165, Santa Clara County Firefighters

Local 230, San Jose Firefighters

Local 1319, Palo Alto Firefighters

Local 1171, Santa Clara City Firefighters

Cost Estimate: None

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Withdrawn

CONVENTION ACTION: Withdrawn