

RESOLUTION

Dedee Verdin

WHEREAS, Dedee Verdin is a proud Los Angeles native whose life and career reflect a deep devotion to discovery, to people, and to the quiet power of finding beauty in simplicity; and

WHEREAS, Dedee's calling as a storyteller began early, sparked in elementary school when, given a stack of newspapers and an assignment to report the day's events, she learned to chase the essential questions of every story: who, what, when, where, and why, an instinct that has guided her ever since; and

WHEREAS, Dedee earned a degree in Journalism with an emphasis in Photojournalism and Sociology, forming a rare and valuable perspective that blends human understanding, and visual craft, enabling her to translate complex moments into clear, accessible narratives that move communities to attention and action; and

WHEREAS, Dedee Verdin has served the Office of Councilmember Curren D. Price, Jr. with dedication, vision, and professionalism since 2015, elevating the standard of public service communications throughout the Ninth District; and

WHEREAS, Dedee's creative approach to multimedia production, event planning, and executive messaging amplified the stories and priorities of South Los Angeles, spotlighting resilience, equity, and community pride at every opportunity; and

WHEREAS, Dedee's expertise and integrity were demonstrated through her stewardship of crisis communications during the COVID-19 pandemic, the 27th Street LAPD incident, and historic moments of Civil unrest, always prioritizing transparency, dignity, and compassion; and

WHEREAS, Dedee's innate curiosity and professional excellence have led her to document an extraordinary breadth of subjects, photographing hundreds of events for the City of Los Angeles, Fortune 500 brands, political leaders, entertainers, productions, and nonprofit organizations, while also being entrusted with historic civic milestones including the groundbreaking of the Lucas Museum of Narrative Art and the launch of the Covered California health care exchange; and

WHEREAS, Dedee's creative reach extends beyond the lens into teaching, consulting, production, stage management, and fine art, and her work has been recognized across major art venues such as the LA Artwalk and media outlets, including; print publications such as the Los Angeles Times, Los Angeles Daily News, LA Sentinel, LA Weekly, La Opinión, Hoy, and the OC Register; and broadcast outlets including KABC, KNBC, and Univision, demonstrating a sustained standard of excellence and influence across disciplines; and

WHEREAS, Dedee's family, her spouse of 21 years and their teenage son, remains her foundation and her compass, grounding her work in enduring values of integrity, service, and purpose; and


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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Los Angeles, by and through the Office of Councilmember Curren D. Price, Jr., hereby extends its gratitude and heartfelt appreciation to Dedee Verdin for her exemplary service, leadership and wish her continued success as she enters her next chapter, confident that her passion for equity, storytelling, and community empowerment will continue to guide her way.

PRESENTED BY: 
CURREN D. PRICE, JR.
Councilmember, 9th
District

SECONDED BY: 

ORIGINAL

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA) represents more than 38,000 educators and Education Workers United - SEIU Local 99 (SEIU 99) represents over 30,000 education workers, serving students and families across over 1,000 schools and work sites in the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD); and

WHEREAS, public education is a cornerstone of our democracy, and fully funded, fully staffed, and well-resourced schools are essential to ensuring that every child in Los Angeles has the opportunity to thrive; and

WHEREAS, these education professionals have worked tirelessly for decades to educate and support Los Angeles' children, and

WHEREAS, the rising cost of living in Los Angeles and lack of investment in public schools have made recruitment and retention of qualified education workers increasingly difficult, contributing to classroom shortages, high caseloads, and stress on school communities; and

WHEREAS, a first-year educator cannot afford the median rent anywhere in the City, one third of UTLA members are working a second job just to survive, over twenty percent qualify for low-income housing assistance, and nearly 60% have acquired significant debt to meet daily expenses; and

WHEREAS, 99% (29,700) of SEIU 99 members cannot afford a one-bedroom apartment in Los Angeles County, 65% (19,500) experience food insecurity, one third (10,000) are on public assistance, 35% (10,500) are housing insecure, and 10% (3,000) have been homeless while working for LAUSD; and

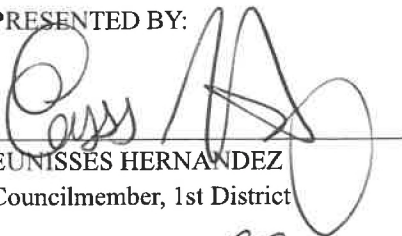
WHEREAS, UTLA, SEIU 99 and LAUSD are engaged in collective bargaining for increased investment in public education, including fair wages, smaller class sizes, healthy staffing levels, mental health supports, Special Education services, school safety, an end to privatization and outsourcing, more hours of work for classified staff to provide essential services, dignity and respect in the workplace and other conditions that directly affect students and school employees; and


WHEREAS, UTLA and SEIU 99 members have organized and voted to authorize respective union leadership to pursue strike action, should the district fail to address these long-standing concerns; and

WHEREAS, strong public schools require fair compensation and working conditions for educators and school staff, which in turn supports higher student achievement, teacher and classified employee retention, and a stable learning environment across all LAUSD schools; and

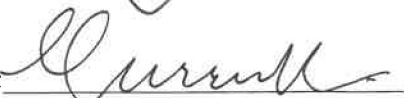
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Los Angeles City Council hereby recognizes UTLA and SEIU 99, whose unwavering support of teachers, nurses, librarians, and counselors enables them to better serve students and families in Los Angeles.

PRESENTED BY:


EUNISSÉS HERNÁNDEZ
Councilmember, 1st District


HUGO SOTO-MARTINEZ
Councilmember, 13th District

SECONDED BY:


All of Council

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ORIGINAL