

## **Resolution in opposition to the Seattle City Council's proposed aggressive solicitation law**

**Whereas**, Seattle City Councilmember Tim Burgess has proposed an "Aggressive Solicitation" ordinance that gives the police broad power to issue citations to groups or individuals they consider to be soliciting or panhandling in such a way that causes persons to feel "compelled to give," and

**Whereas** such vague language is overly broad and invites selective enforcement and discrimination by the police, especially against people of color and those who are poor, and

**Whereas**, there is an array of laws already on the books that police can use to explicitly target criminal and assaultive street conduct including laws against assault, trespass, property defacement, theft, stalking, menacing, malicious harassment, obstruction, littering, public drinking, urination, pedestrian interference, and expectoration, and

**Whereas**, police, courts, and jail resources should be focused on curbing real crime, not clogging our system with people whose only crime is that they are poor and caught in the broad net of this ordinance, and

**Whereas**, the City of Seattle's Human Rights Commission that advises City lawmakers on policy matters has gone on record as opposing the proposed ordinance,

**Whereas**, such groups as Real Change, the ACLU, the steering committee of the Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness, the Minority Executive Directors Coalition, El Centro de la Raza, the Seattle Community Council Federation, the Seattle Displacement Coalition, and the Church Council of Greater Seattle all oppose the ordinance,

**Therefore be it resolved**, the 46th District Democrats express their strong opposition to Seattle City Councilmember Tim Burgess's "Aggressive Solicitation" Ordinance and shall forward a letter to this effect to Councilmember Burgess, other members of the City Council, the Mayor, and the City Attorney, and,

**Be it further resolved**, that the 46th District Democrats call on the City Council and Mayor instead to commit more of our city's time and resources towards real solutions such as preserving and expanding our city's affordable housing stock, adding livable wage jobs, and increasing community based drug, alcohol, and mental health treatment.

*Adopted April 15, 2010, by 46<sup>th</sup> District Democrats*