

*Before the Board of Supervisors in and for the  
County of Monterey, State of California*

**Resolution No.:**

Adopt Resolution recognizing **30th Anniversary of the** )  
**Historic 1985-1987 Watsonville Cannery Strikes.....** )

**WHEREAS**, in September 1985, the workers at Watsonville Canning began their historic eightieth month strike, devastating family’s businesses, it became a rallying point for the Bay Area labor movement and minority activist, most of them, Latina women and a third of them were single mothers; and

**WHEREAS**, Watsonville Canning forced the strike by demanding cuts to healthcare, pensions, seniority, benefits and forty percent cuts in wages, it brought up not only economic but social justice issues, the canning strike was a dramatic show of power by women; and

**WHEREAS**, Watsonville Canning hired a union busting law firm which used a strategy of holding until workers could be permanently replaced; and

**WHEREAS**, the courts ruled there could only be a maximum of four pickets at each gate, ten feet apart and no congregating within one hundred feet of the plant; and

**WHEREAS**, the resolve of their work came at a tremendous cost, dozens of strikers and their families faced evictions and several of them lost their homes, forcing them to send their children to relative and foster homes, strikers asked the City Council for a moratorium on evictions but were denied, the strike lasted more than one year and devastated the Watsonville community; and

**WHEREAS**, the strikers and their families gained support of their unions, the Teamsters, at the local, regional and national levels, unions saw this strike as not only important for the women but also as a barometer for labor throughout the country and Watsonville, it empowered the Latino community and shaped the way for the supreme court decision in 1988, which mandated Watsonville’s district elections; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT AND RESOLVED**, that the Monterey County Board of Supervisors, on behalf of the County and all citizens thereof, that they recognize the historic 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Historic 1985-1987 Watsonville Cannery Strikes.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** on this \_\_\_\_day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2017, upon motion of Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_ by the following vote, to-wit:

- AYES:
- NOES:
- ABSENT:

I, Gail Borkowski, Clerk to the Board of Supervisors of the County of Monterey, State of California, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of an original order of said Board of Supervisors duly made and entered in the minutes thereof Minute Book\_\_\_\_\_ for the meeting on\_\_\_\_\_.

Dated:

Gail T. Borkowski Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
County of Monterey, State of California

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy