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## *Working Families Agenda 2007*

In 2007, workers in this community will continue to face an unprecedented crisis as jobs in the public, private and construction industries continue to disappear at an alarming rate. The Rochester Labor Council, AFL-CIO stands up for working families by supporting the growth of good jobs, the protection of existing jobs, and the right for workers to have a voice at work. We require that all candidates seeking the Rochester Labor Council's support in the 2007 elections to endorse the following principles:

**Economic Development for Working Families** – Organizations such as COMIDA (County of Monroe Industrial Development Agency) and the New York State Economic Development Corporation must require that economic development incentives given to employers be used to create good family sustaining jobs. We support mandating basic employment, environmental, and community benefits standards on all public subsidy deals. These standards include responsible employer/contractor standards such as family sustainable/prevaling wages, employment benefits, worker retention & full time employment ratios, and non-discrimination clauses. These standards also include the necessity for community impact reports, improved reporting and enforceable claw-back penalties for recipients. By mandating that subsidy applicants must meet a set of basic standards, the cities and counties are assured that subsidy recipients will create quality jobs, meet community needs, and have a positive economic development impact in our community. All recipients of economic development incentives must conform to all existing labor laws.

**Quality Services/Quality Jobs in Government** – Privatization of government services threatens the quality of those services and replaces decent paying jobs with poorly paid ones. Privatization drives down the standard of living in our community, threatens many of the essential services that we rely on, and frequently creates cost increases. Privatization is a bad idea.

**The Right to Choose a Voice at Work** – Union Membership is the surest way to achieve fairness on the job. Union members have a voice in the decisions that affect them. They bargain over wages, benefits, and working conditions. Union members are granted due process of law, and are no longer considered "at will" employees. Although most workers would prefer to work with a union contract, employers fight against workers who try to organize. Public officials must speak out against union-busting, urge employers to remain neutral during organizing efforts, and recommend that workers vote "Union Yes" whenever the opportunity arises. All elected officials supported by Labor must support and promote the Employee Free Choice Act.

**Public Policy** – Working families rely on social safety nets like Social Security. These programs must be preserved and protected in a manner that ensures no cuts in or privatization of Social Security and promotes Universal Health Care.

### **I Agree With, and Support, the Working Families Agenda:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Candidate Signature Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Office Sought

