



To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Luis Alvarado, Executive Director
Let The Vote Count

Re: CONSENT CALENDAR, July 8, 2014

Subject: Supporting the Gerawan Inc. Farm Workers by providing them the dignity of their vote in an ALRB election by voting "No" to sending letters in support of the UFW.

We applaud your consideration and support of the Gerawan Inc. Farm Workers (the "Farm Workers").

RECOMMENDATION:

Support the Farm Workers by voting "No" to the recommendation of Councilmember Worthington suggesting the sending of letters to Wal-Mart and Gerawan Farms Inc. Rather, the valuable time of the Mayor and the City Council could be better utilized by investigating the issues afflicting the Farm Workers by actually speaking to their leaders, rather than making an uninformed decision that only furthers the political and financial interests of the UFW.

BACKGROUND:

Gerawan Inc. owns the "Prima" brand, whose agricultural products are sold at Wal-Mart stores across the country. The company advertises "the best wages" and "a comfortable working environment" for the over 5,000 workers that harvest their crops. Their employees agree. The UFW has been actively engaged in a battle to unionize the employees through questionable legal and at times dubious tactics. The Gerawan Farm Workers have independently fought back in the fields, the courtrooms and even marched to Sacramento to seek justice.

Even though the California Agricultural Labor Relations Board ("ALRB") oversaw a vote on November 5, 2013 by the Gerawan Farm Workers, it has failed to count the votes of Farm Workers, and has not explained to why it has not done so.

If the Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council truly wish to support the Farm Workers, then perhaps the best vehicle would be to write the ALRB who oversaw the vote in November 5, 2013 and demand that it count the votes of Gerawan Farm Workers. The residents of the City of Berkley would certainly appreciate their Mayor and City Council supporting the democratic expression of the Gerawan Farm Workers.

For more information on the plight of the Gerawan Farm Workers, please visit the Let The Vote Count website:

www.letthevotecount.com

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Luis Alvarado', is written over a light gray grid background.