RESOLUTION ON ENDORSING BRANDON JOHNSON FOR MAYOR, LORI TORRES FOR ALDERWOMAN AND MUEZE BAWANY FOR ALDERMAN

WHEREAS our vision for a school district, city, and state that is committed to common good unionism that provides for our members, their families and the students and families we serve, and our commitment to mass-based organizing to achieve it, and

WHEREAS student based budgeting, educator shortages, staffing vacancies, underfunding of the vast majority of school communities serving Black and Brown students, an unfair evaluation system, over-sized class, unclean school buildings in need of major repairs won’t be addressed without a partner in city hall, and

WHEREAS to build the Schools Chicago Students Deserve and fight for a Just Chicago, our movement will need governing power, defined as the ability to win and sustain power within multiple arenas so as to shift the power structure of governance and establish a new governing paradigm, and

WHEREAS pursuing governing power requires contesting in the electoral arena as one of many strategies required to build the mass power needed to protect our members, students and school communities by enacting radical, durable, and self-evident change, and

WHEREAS that having elected a dynamic group of co-leaders to city, county, state, and federal office over the past decade, including members of the Chicago Teachers Union and close allies in our struggles for education justice, has resulted in profound shifts in the landscape of the possible while simultaneously illustrating the limits of our own minority position, and

WHEREAS that despite our victories, we still have to remain organized to realize both a just Chicago and the schools Chicago students deserve, and

WHEREAS that the terrain of the 2023 municipal elections–including a combative and destructive Mayor and an unprecedented wave of aldermanic retirements–provides us with a generational opportunity to continue organizing for alternatives that speak directly to our values and an opportunity to support individuals who will struggle with us to obtain a more equitable and just city and school district, and

WHEREAS we must continue to make power-building as important as the win in our pursuit of governing power, foregoing the most expedient political choices in order to build broad and deep support of the multiracial working-class, organized at worksites, in communities, on the streets and at the ballot box, and

WHEREAS our members, Lori Torres, Mueze Bawany and Brandon Johnson have deeply lived this vision and mission, as residents of Chicago, classroom teachers, organizers and leaders in the Chicago Teachers Union, and

WHEREAS Lori, Mueze and Brandon are not merely better than the alternatives, nor merely

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values-aligned, but they are truly leaders in our Union and our struggle for educational, social,
economic, and racial justice, and

WHEREAS that we do not seek savior, and that it is the work of the many, not a single
candidate, to organize and win such that new horizons–free lifelong care and education, housing
and healthcare as a human right, clean air and water, and replacing police and prisons with life-
affirming systems of care and justice–are made possible, and

WHEREAS that nonetheless, the Mayor and city council have legal jurisdiction over the City of
Chicago’s sister agencies, city departments, and public boards as well as the office’s traditional
leadership over City Council makes it a critically important seat from which to expand the
common good, therefore, be it

RESOLVED the Chicago Teachers Union endorses Lori Torres and Mueze Bawany for
alderman and we join the call urging Brandon Johnson to run for Mayor of Chicago. The
implications of this decision are as follows:

1. This resolution shall constitute an endorsement of Brandon Johnson for Mayor of
Chicago if and when the campaign is officially launched. If Commissioner Johnson
does not run for Mayor, this endorsement does not automatically transfer to any other
candidate; any other candidate seeking the Chicago Teachers Union endorsement for
Mayor must be brought to the HOD for a vote.

2. The Chicago Teachers Union will use this electoral cycle to build power to ensure a
City Hall and an elected representative school board that centers, champions and
reflects the needs of our members, their families, our students and their families and
every stakeholder in our school communities.

☐ Adopted    ☐ Adopted as Amended    ☐ Defeated    ☐ Tabled    ☐ Other

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