

RESOLUTION NO. 8558

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HAWTHORNE, CALIFORNIA, PROCLAIMING SUPPORT FOR WOMEN BASKETBALL PLAYERS AND URGING THE WOMEN'S NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION TO NEGOTIATE EQUITABLE CONTRACTS THAT PROVIDE WAGES AND BENEFITS, AND IMPROVED WORKING CONDITIONS THAT PRIORITIZE THEIR HEALTH, SAFETY, AND HOLISTIC WELL-BEING

WHEREAS, the Women's National Basketball Players Association (WNBPA) is the first professional sports union for women and has promoted the interests, aspirations, and long-term visions of WNBA players since 1998; and

WHEREAS, the members of the WNBPA are professional athletes who are employed across thirteen teams in thirteen cities within the United States, and five additional teams in the coming years in Toronto, Canada; Portland, Oregon; Cleveland, Ohio; Detroit, Michigan; and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, the members of the WNBPA are engaged in their sixth contract negotiations with their employers for higher wages, better benefits, and professional working conditions that reflect contributions and sacrifices for the growth and prosperity of women's basketball; and

WHEREAS, the players and their representatives at WNBPA have been negotiating the terms of their new collective bargaining agreement with the WNBA for several months, but these negotiations have not resulted in agreements that meet the needs of the players and that both parties remain very far apart; and

WHEREAS, a key issue in the ongoing negotiations between the WNBA and the WNBPA include players' demands regarding revenue sharing and salaries. Currently players receive no shared revenue under the current CBA including from TV deals, tickets, sponsorships, and merchandise sales. This is in contrast with other major men's professional sports leagues: National Basketball Association players receive 49 to 51%; National Football League players receive at least 48.8%; and National Hockey League players receive 50% of their respective shared revenue; and

WHEREAS, the contract negotiations come at a pivotal time for the WNBA which has seen historic growth in recent years, including increases in revenue, average game attendance at an all-time high, league expansion for the first time since 2008, and evaluations of the current thirteen franchises of the WNBA increased by an average of 180% over the last year; and

WHEREAS, the WNBPA's contract demands would promote gender pay equity and would demonstrate women as valuable workers who deserve to be paid and treated accordingly;

and

WHEREAS, women’s professional sports, and the WNBA in particular, play a vital role in promoting equity, representation, and economic activity in cities across the country; and

WHEREAS, the WNBPA’s contract with the WNBA expires October 31, 2025; and

WHEREAS, failure to reach an agreement before the deadline could result in a strike, lockout, or other labor disruptions that would have significant impacts on players, teams, fans, and communities; and

WHEREAS, labor unrest in professional sports has historically led to unintended consequences, including economic losses for host cities, reduced opportunities for local businesses, and diminished access to sporting events that inspire and uplift communities; and

WHEREAS, labor unions have helped to uplift workers by successfully advocating for higher wages, access to benefits, and safe, healthy working conditions, advances that have been a key driver of economic mobility and stability for whole communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Hawthorne does hereby find, determine and order as follows:

Section 1. The City Council of the City of Hawthorne, California, hereby incorporates by reference all the recitals herein and finds that they are true and correct.

Section 2. The Council of the City of Hawthorne, California hereby proclaims its support of the members of the WNBPA and urges the WNBA to work diligently and in good faith to negotiate a contract settlement before the October 31, 2025 deadline that would provide these workers equitable compensation, benefits, and improved working conditions that prioritizes their health, safety, and well-being.

Section 3. The City Clerk shall certify to the adoption of this Resolution and thereafter the same shall be in full force and effect.

PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this 14th day of October, 2025.

**ALEX VARGAS, Mayor
City of Hawthorne, California**

ATTEST:

**DAYNA WILLIAMS-HUNTER, City Clerk
City of Hawthorne, California**

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

**DAVID CACERES, Interim City Attorney
City of Hawthorne, California**