

Sponsor: Barry Tyler, 3rd District Councilman
and the Entire Hammond Common Council

RESOLUTION NO. R12

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE MEMBERS OF UNITED STEELWORKERS LOCAL 7-1 AND URGING BRITISH PETROLEUM TO END THE LOCKOUT AT THE WHITING REFINERY AND RESUME GOOD-FAITH BARGAINING

WHEREAS, United Steelworkers Local 7-1 represents approximately 800 workers at the British Petroleum refinery in Whiting, Indiana; and

WHEREAS, on March 19th, 2026, British Petroleum locked out approximately 800 members of United Steelworkers Local 7-1 from their jobs at the Whiting refinery; and

WHEREAS, many of these workers and their families live, work, worship, volunteer, shop, and participate in civic life throughout Northwest Indiana, including in communities such as City of Hammond; and

WHEREAS, the lockout has placed significant financial and emotional strain on working families who are now living without their regular paychecks; and

WHEREAS, members of United Steelworkers Local 7-1 are not only refinery workers, but also neighbors, parents, coaches, scout leaders, volunteers, customers, taxpayers, and active contributors to the strength and well-being of our communities; and

WHEREAS, United Steelworkers Local 7-1 has stated that its members did not voluntarily walk off the job, but were instead locked out by British Petroleum after rejecting proposals that would eliminate more than 100 local jobs, reduce pay, and weaken seniority and bargaining rights; and

WHEREAS, the right of workers to bargain collectively, protect good local jobs, and negotiate in good faith is essential to the economic stability of working families and the communities they support; and

WHEREAS, the continued lockout has consequences not only for the locked-out workers and their families, but also for local businesses, schools, neighborhoods, and municipal economies throughout Northwest Indiana; and

WHEREAS, the Whiting refinery is a major industrial facility whose safe operation is of great importance to surrounding communities; and

WHEREAS, United Steelworkers Local 7-1 has raised serious concerns about the health and safety risks created by operating the refinery with replacement workers instead of the trained, experienced local workforce that knows the facility, its equipment, and its hazards best; and

WHEREAS, local governments have a responsibility to speak in support of the health, safety, economic security, and general welfare of their residents; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council of Hammond recognize the importance of resolving this dispute quickly, fairly, and in a manner that respects workers, protects good jobs, and promotes the safe operation of the Whiting refinery.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF HAMMOND, INDIANA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The Mayor and City Council express the support for the locked-out members of United Steelworkers Local 7-1 and their families.


Section 2. The Mayor and City Council urge British Petroleum to immediately end the lockout of United Steelworkers Local 7-1 members at the Whiting refinery.

Section 3. The Mayor and City Council further urge British Petroleum to return to the bargaining table and bargain in good faith with United Steelworkers Local 7-1 toward a fair agreement that protects local jobs, respects workers' rights, and supports the long-term safety and stability of the refinery and surrounding communities.

Section 4. The Mayor and City Council recognize the importance of experienced, trained refinery workers in maintaining safe operations at a facility that directly affects the health and safety of Northwest Indiana communities.

Section 5. The Clerk of the City of Hammond is hereby directed to transmit a copy of this resolution to British Petroleum, United Steelworkers Local 7-1, state and federal elected officials representing Northwest Indiana, and any other parties deemed appropriate by the Council.


PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of Hammond, Indiana, this 26th day
of May, 2026.


Janet Venecz, President
Hammond Common Council


ATTEST:


Robert J. Golec, City Clerk
City of Hammond, Indiana


PRESENTED BY ME, the undersigned City Clerk of the City of Hammond, Indiana, to
the Mayor, for approval and signature, this 27th day of May, 2026.


Robert J. Golec, City Clerk
City of Hammond, Indiana

The foregoing ~~Ordinance~~ ^{Resolution} No. R12 consisting of three (3) typewritten pages,
including this page, was APPROVED AND SIGNED BY ME, the undersigned Mayor of the
City of Hammond, Indiana, this 27th day of MAY, 2026.


Thomas M. McDermott, Jr., Mayor
City of Hammond, Indiana

PASSED by the Common Council on the 26th day of May, 2026 and
Approved by the Mayor on the 27th day of MAY, 2026.


Robert J. Golec, City Clerk,
Hammond, Indiana