This is a movement!” said ILWU International President Willie Adams, who was invited to speak from the back of a flatbed truck by Local 10 and 34 leaders as thousands of marchers assembled to commemorate Juneteenth on a sunny morning outside the Port of Oakland’s SSA Terminal.

“Young people are taking to the streets all over the world. They are militant; they are smart, and they are marching without apology,” said Adams, who was accompanied by International Secretary-Treasurer Ed Ferns and International Executive Board member Melvin Mackay.

Ongoing struggle against racism

The June 19th event was part of a historic coastwise stand-down that reached from the Port of San Diego up to Vancouver, Canada. The goal was to raise awareness about America’s legacy of racism that began with slavery in 1619, is woven into the nation’s founding documents, caused a Civil War that killed 850,000 Americans which was followed by a century of universal discrimination and sometimes brutal repression – the remainders of which are stubbornly persistent today – 400 years after the first African slaves were brought to North America.

Killing that sparked a movement

The stand-down was an act of solidarity with millions of people across America and around the world who joined protests against racist police violence, sparked by the brutal killing of unarmed man George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police. Floyd’s brutal murder was caught on a cell phone video and triggered continuous protests and demands for sweeping reform of the criminal justice system.

Born in the Bay Area

The Bay Area march and rally was organized by ILWU Locals 10 and 34, where Presidents Trent Wil lis and Keith Shanklin encouraged locals up and down the coast to participate in a united stand-down on June 19. Their effort won backing from all longshore locals, the International Union, the Inlandboatmen’s Union, and ILWU Canada – along with dozens of community groups.

‘Say their names’

The morning rally kicked-off a three-mile march from the port to Oscar Grant Plaza at Oakland City Hall. Before noon, a sea of protesters left the SSA terminal and streamed down Middle Harbor Boulevard, marching behind the Local 10 banner and the Local 10 Drill Team. The atmosphere was festive but defi ant. Marchers chanted, sang songs, beat drums, and joined call-and-

continued on page 4

IEB meets via video conference page 5
SECRETARY-TREASURER’S REPORT

“I can’t breathe.”

These three words seemingly can’t get out of my head. Quite honestly, they have haunted me ever since I witnessed the recent public police execution of George Floyd on May 25, 2020.

That is the day that former Minneapolis policeman Derek Chauvin murdered Mr. George Floyd by applying an illegal and unjustifiable choke hold.

That is the day that he knelt with his full body weight on George Floyd’s neck for eight minutes and 46 seconds.

That is the day that three other former Minneapolis policemen openly ignored Derek Chauvin’s criminal behavior. They all quietly watched a man be choked to death by their co-worker and shamefully, did not intervene at all.

That is the day that George Floyd’s humanity was ignored by the very people who were paid to protect and serve the public.

Fortunately for all of us, that is also the day that a courageous teenager, Ms. Darnella Frazier, filmed Derek Chauvin’s cruel murder of George Floyd. If she had not, one could argue that the current wave of increased social activism and public demand for police reform in this country would not exist.

I never met George Floyd, but after watching the video of his death by law enforcement, I shamefully realized that I personally haven’t done enough to advocate for the significant changes and reforms required to end systemic racism.

You see, it isn’t enough to just be kind, courteous, and decent to all people. It isn’t enough to not possess hate in your heart. It isn’t enough to treat diversity or inclusion, or have friends of all different types of ethnicities. We all must do more.

In my opinion, we must collectively recognize the vast societal inequities that exist in the U.S. and eliminate them if we ever are going to experience true equality, justice, and peace for all of our people.

The Problem of Systemic Racism in the United States

In a June 23, 2020 ASU NOW interview, Arizona State University Associate Professor Eleanor Seaton clearly explains that, “Racism is a system of power and privilege based on perceived race and/or ethnicity that defines one group as dominant to and more deserving than all other groups. In this system, there is a dominant group (e.g. whites) and there are subordinate groups including Native Americans, Black Americans, Latinx, and Asian Americans. Racism is rooted in historical oppression (e.g. genocide of Native Americans, enslavement of Africans) such that subordinate groups were and are defined as “inferior” to the “superior” dominant white group. The dominant group created and currently maintains societal privilege through values, behaviors, and institutions. This privilege results in subordinate groups lacking access to power, status, and resources.”

One of the most common misconceptions about racism is that it is based solely on individual acts. Many people believe that a few individual “bad apples” are racist or engage in racist behaviors. In fact, racism is baked into our society and in the institutions that make up our society, including schools, neighborhoods, workplaces, banks, health care, the media, and policing systems.

Ed Ferris
Secretary-Treasurer

Correction: Alaska Longshore Division President Dennis Young informs us that the photos appearing on page 4 of the May Dispatcher, “Workers arrested in campaign for good jobs,” should be credited to Alaska Unit 60 member Erik Moore.

Ed Ferris, Secretary-Treasurer
INFORME DEL SECRETARIO TESORERO

“No puedo respirar.”

A

l parecer estas tres pal-

abras no se me borrarán
de la mente. Francamente,
me persigue el recuer-
dodo de estas palabras desde que
presencé la ejecución pública
en Dallas el 25 de mayo de 2020.

Ese fue el día en que el anti-
guio policía de Minneapolis, Derek
Chauvin, asesinó al señor George
Floyd con una llave al cuello ilegal
y injustificada.

Ese es el día que incen-  

tó al peso completo de su cuerpo en el cuello de
George Floyd por ocho minutos y 46 segundos.

Ese fue el día en que otros tres ex
policías de Minneapolis hicieron caso
omiso públicamente de la conducta
criminal de Derek Chauvin. Todos se
quedaron callados mientras su com-

trabzo de trabajo ahorró a un hombre hasta
matarlo, demostrando vergonz-

osamente incapaces de intervenir.

Ese fue el día en que la policía
casos rebajó con tanta fuerza que
precisamente se les paga por proteger
y servir al público negaron la humani-
dad de George Floyd.

Por suerte para todos nosotros,
también fue el día en que una adoles-
cente valiente, Darnella Frazier, grabó
el video del cruel asesinato de
George Floyd por Derek Chauvin. Si no lo
hubiera hecho, podríamos alegar que
no existía la actual ola de activismo
social y demandas de reforma policial
por el público en este país.

Nunca conocí a George Floyd, pero
después de ver el video de su muerte
a manos de los agentes del orden
público, me he dado cuenta vergonzo-
samente que no he hecho lo suficiente
para exigir los cambios y reformas sig-

ificativas que se requieren para poner
fin al racismo sistemático.

Resulta que no es suficiente sim-
plemente ser gentil, amable y respetu-
os con toda la gente. No es sufi-
cientemente en el aire los que en
nuestros corazones. No es suficiente valorar la
diversidad o inclusión, o tener amigos de
todos los grupos étnicos. Todos
debemos hacer mucho más. Opino
que debemos reconocer colectiva-
mente las vastas desigualdades socia-

les que existen en los EU y eliminarlas
si queremos algún día experimentar
realmente la igualdad, justicia y paz
para toda nuestra gente.

El problema del racismo sistemático
en Estados Unidos

En una entrevista realizada el 23 de
juni de 2020 por ASU NOW, la
profesora adjunta Eleanor Seaton
de Arizona State University explicó clara-
damente que “el racismo es un sistema
de poder y privilegio basado en la raza
eracidad percibida que califica a
un grupo como dominante sobre los
demás y más merecedor que ellos.

En este sistema, hay un grupo domi-
nante (blancos) y hay grupos subordi-
nados, incluyendo las personas nati-

vas, afroamericanas, latinas de todos los
genros, y asiáticoamericanos. El
racismo está arraigado en la opresión
histórica (es decir, el genocidio de los
indígenas, esclavización de africanos)
de tal manera que los grupos subor-
dinados son y se define como
“inferiores” al grupo blanco domi-
nante “superior.” El grupo dominante
creó y actualmente mantiene su privi-
legio social por medio de los valores,
formas de actuar e instituciones. Este
privilegio resulta en que los grupos
subordinados sean privados de acceso
al poder, estatus y recursos.

“Uno de los conceptos erróneos
más comunes es que el racismo se base
únicamente en los actos de los indi-
víduos. Muchos consideran que solo
unas ‘cuanzas manzanas podridas’ son
racistas y se portan de manera racista.

De hecho, el racismo es parte esencial
de nuestra sociedad y las instituciones
que forman parte de ella, incluyendo
las escuelas, vecindades, centros de
trabajo, bancos, sistema de atención
médica, los medios de comunicación
y los sistemas del orden público.

¿Qué es el racismo sistemático o
institucional?

El racismo institucional es aquel
en que las instituciones cumplen sus
funciones a favor del grupo dominante
y practican la intolerancia hacia los
grupos subordinados. Es importante
reconocer que el racismo institucional
en una esfera refuerza el racismo insti-
tucional en otras esferas, alimentando
un sistema interconectado que
renueva constantemente mientras
reproduce las desigualdades raciales
to la larga de la existencia de este.

Yo alegaré que el racismo institucional
es más peligroso que el racismo indi-

vidual porque el primero crea ambien-
tes que dictan todos los aspectos
de la vida para las personas subordi-
nadas. El racismo duce en dónde vive
uno y asiste a la escuela, a que tipo de
empleo puede uno aspirar, si uno
tiene asistencia médica o no, si tiene
acceso a los alimentos saludables y
nutritivos y si el sistema de justicia lo
trata equitativamente, solo para nom-
brar unos cuantos ejemplos. El ciclo
se repite a lo largo de las vidas de las
personas y por generaciones.

La explicación del racismo sis-
témico por la profesora Seaton me ha
ayudado mucho a entender personal-
mente el racismo en general, y espero
que sus palabras realmente le eduquen
 tambien a usted.

Los servicios funebres de
George Floyd

El 8 de junio de 2020, tuve el
honro de representar al ILWU en la
ceremonia conmemorativa de
George Floyd en Houston, Texas junto con
Melvin Mackay (Local 10) y Tyrone
Harvey (Local 19).

Era emocionante de tener esa

oportunidad, pero admite que me
preocupaba viajar durante la pan-
demia global. Me preocupaba arries-
gar potencialmente la salud y segur-
idad de mi familia, pero después de
hablarlo varias veces con mi familia,
decidimos que me podría en cuaren-
tena después de asistir a los servicios,
resolviendo así la mayoría de mis pre-
ocupaciones. No cabe duda que asistir
to los servicios funebres fue la decisión
acertada y quiero agradecer personal-
mente a Willie Adams, Presidente
del ILWU y Bobby Olvera, Jr., Vice
presidente del ILWU por su apoyo
y aliento constantes. Existe un agra-
decimiento especial a nuestros cama-
radas del IIA por la hospitalidad y
solidaridad que brindaron a nuestra
delegación todo ese día.

La ceremonia conmemorativa se
realizó en una iglesia bella llamada
The Fountain of Praise Church (Igle-
sia da la Fuente de Alabama) en
el suroeste de Houston. A pesar del calor
abrumante, fue notable la gran cami-
dad de personas que asistieron a dicha
ceremonia, se calculó que asistieron
unas 6,000 personas. Todos tuvimos
la suerte de experimentar la solidari-
dad, esperanza y sentido de comuni-
dad palpables de tantas personas. Fue
una experiencia extraordinaria que
nunca se me olvidará.

El activista de derechos civiles y
erito W.E.B. Du Bois dijo alguna
vez: “O Estados Unidos destruirá la
ignorancia, o la ignorancia destruirá
a Estados Unidos.” Hace ya mucho
que deberíamos haber hecho caso
collectivamente a las palabras sabias
y prudentes de Du Bois. Si no lo hac-
emos, nunca seremos realmente “una
nación, bajo Dios, indivisible con lib-
ertad y justicia para todos.”

Se despide de ustedes con solidaridad,
Ed Ferris

#Blacklivesmatter

SECRETARY-TREASURER’S REPORT

continued from page2

aspect of life for subordinate individu-
als. Racism dictates where one lives and
trato de poder ser tratado con igualdad,
por equidad de derechos de todos los
grupos étnicos. Todos y todas nos
unimos en contra del racismo institucional.

Ese fue el día en que el activista de
derechos civiles y erito W.E.B. Du Bois dijo alguna
vez: “O Estados Unidos destruirá la
ignorancia, o la ignorancia destruirá
a Estados Unidos.” Hace ya mucho
que deberíamos haber hecho caso
collectivamente a las palabras sabias
y prudentes de Du Bois. Si no lo hac-
emos, nunca seremos realmente “una
nación, bajo Dios, indivisible con lib-
ertad y justicia para todos.”

Se despide de ustedes con solidaridad,
Ed Ferris

#Blacklivesmatter
ILWU stands down at West Coast ports for historic Juneteenth action to honor Black lives

General Secretary ZweliniZa Vavi of the South African Federation of Trade Unions issued a statement saying, “Comrades in the ILWU, we applaud your action taken in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter uprising. Closing down 29 ports on the US West Coast, the United States gateway to the world during this deep economic crisis, is an extraordinary act. We celebrate Juneteenth with you, the ending of slavery in the US. We also have suffered such depths of racism and have watched the video of George Floyd’s murder in agony.”

Jerry Dias, National President of Unifor, Canada’s largest private-sector labor union, also sent a letter of solidarity. “On behalf of Unifor Canada members we salute your membership for their actions today, Juneteenth, in support of Black Lives Matter. ILWU has a proud history of standing up and speaking out for social justice and today you are once again showing the best of the labour movement,” wrote Dias.

“Whenever the ILWU takes a stand, the world feels the reverberations...”

— Angela Davis

High profile speakers

Trent Willis and Keith Shanklin served as emcees during the event. The issue of police violence has effected Shanklin and Willis directly; both had family members killed by police.

Shanklin got the crowd fired up at the start. “We are going to make some noise. We want them to hear us coming. We are here to make a change. You matter. Black Lives Matter,” said Shanklin before introducing Bishop Bob Jackson from Oakland’s Acts Full Gospel Church.

The port rally featured high profile speakers including film star Danny Glover along with scholars and civil rights activist Angela Davis. Both

Continued from page 1

Chant leaders called out “Say their names!” as marchers responded by shouting the names of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Pedie Perez, Miles Hall, Oscar Grant, and others who have died at the hands of police or to white vigilantes.

An estimated 20,000 strong

By the time marchers reached downtown Oakland, organizers estimated that the group numbered 20,000 strong. They stopped outside the Oakland Police Department headquarters for a brief rally. Speakers called attention to the OPD’s massive $330 million annual budget and the Department’s long history of abuse, racial discrimination, and violation of court orders—behaviors that cost residents millions in lawsuit settlements.

Remembering George Floyd’s death

The massive Juneteenth action followed a 9-minute work stoppage by ILWU dockworkers on June 9th that began at 9 a.m. in all West Coast ports. The symbolic stand-down action recalled the agonizing eight minutes and 46 seconds that George Floyd suffered while being slowly choked to death by Minneapolis police officers.

“Whenever the ILWU takes a stand, the world feels the reverberations...”

— Angela Davis

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The port rally featured high profile speakers including film star Danny Glover along with scholars and civil rights activist Angela Davis. Both
Emcee for justice: Local 34 President Keith Shanklin kept the morning program flowing, introduced speakers and made sure the crowd was loud and lively.

Glover and Davis addressed the crowd remotely in order to maintain social distance. Glover called into the rally to deliver his message while Davis stood through her car’s sunroof, fist raised in the air, while her pre-recorded address was played.

Davis thanked the ILWU for shutting down the West Coast ports, noting the ILWU’s long tradition of using their collective power to stand up against racism in the US and across the globe. “Whenever the ILWU takes a stand, the world feels the reverberations,” Davis began.

“Thank you for shutting down the ports today, on Juneteenth - the day when we renew our commitment to the struggle for freedom,” Davis said. “You represent the potential and power of the labor movement.”

Davis added that if she had not chosen to become a professor, her next choice would have been to become a dockworker or warehouse worker “in order to be a member of the most radical union in the country, the ILWU,” she said.

Justice summer

Shortly after the video of the murder of George Floyd was released, Local 19 member Tyone Harvey knew what he had to do. Traveling on his own dime, Harvey got into his truck and drove to Minneapolis, the site of Floyd’s murder, before heading to Houston where he attended a memorial service for Mr. Floyd along with International Secretary-Treasurer Ed Ferris and International Executive Board member Melvin Mockay.

“I did this for my son,” Harvey said. “I marched for my son. I traveled for my son and brought the flag of the ILWU to show that my job allowed me to go to pay my respects for all men and women who have been wronged by systemic racism in this country. Change will and has to come.”

On June 12, amid nationwide protests against police brutality, Atlanta police fatally shot 27-year-old Rayshard Brooks in the back. Following the shooting, Harvey got into his truck once again and drove across the country to Atlanta for the memorial service.

International Executive Board meets via video conference amidst Coronavirus pandemic

The horrific image of George Floyd being murdered by Minneapolis Police Officer Derek Chauvin kneeling on his neck for eight minutes and forty-six seconds graphically symbolizes the oppression African Americans have experienced in North America since they first arrived on slave ships. The United States’ ideal of equality for all stands in sharp contrast with the shameful manner in which the nation has treated its African American citizens, Latinos, Native Americans, and other minorities.

This racism is deeply ingrained in every fabric of our country—unequal educational opportunities, police intimidation, employment discrimination, disproportionate incarceration rates, housing, racial profiling, a cash bail system that discriminates against people of color, access to financial capital, and a criminal justice system that routinely dehumanizes people of color. The widespread availability of technology to record incidents of overt racism, such as police harassment and violence, and share them over social media has laid bare how the persistent disease of racism has plagued the black community in particular—when it comes to unequal treatment of Black Americans by police.

Brother Floyd’s tragic murder, along with those of Breonna Taylor and Ahmaud Arbery among others, have created the opportunity to have the very hard discussions about racism at the national, state, local, and individual levels. Unfortunately, we cannot expect any leadership out of the White House as Trump barricades himself in and thwarts any efforts to use the military to quell peaceful demonstrations. These discussions must go on without the White House involvement. This is an opportunity that must not be wasted as we, as a society, cannot permit yet another racist murder.

The ILWU has a proud and storied history of standing up for civil rights and opposing racism. Today, the International Executive Board of the ILWU reaffirms that legacy as we stand up for principles of solidarity and support to workers and community members in need. Under that banner, we stand with our communities in support of an end to police brutality and harassment because we understand that “black lives matter.” Additionally, we strongly encourage all ILWU members to reach out to local, state, and national community groups addressing racism in all its ugly forms. We will be putting together a website listing several such organizations.

Finally, our condolences go out to the family and friends of Brother Floyd and other brothers and sisters who have been subject to violent racist attacks.


ILWU turns out big for Juneteenth Seattle march against police brutality and racism

Hundreds of ILWU members marched with their families, friends and community members in Seattle to commemorate Juneteenth. Work stopped at the Port of Seattle for eight hours as part of a coastwise shutdown to mark Emancipation Day, and as an act of solidarity with people protesting racism and police violence across the United States.

The ‘Rally and March to Stop Police Brutality and Systemic Racism’ began at 10 am at Local 19’s hall. ILWU motorcycles led the marchers along the waterfront to Terminal 46 before heading to the State Department of Corrections Day Reporting Center.

ILWU speakers included Local 19 President Rich Austin, Jr. and Gabriel Prawl, Sr., a Local 52 member and president of the A. Philip Randolph Institute in Seattle which co-sponsored the event. Prawl, former Local 52 President, was the first African-American elected to that office.

Austin started his remarks by quoting the ILWU’s Third Guiding Principle: “Workers are indivisible. There can be no discrimination because of race, color, creed, national origin, religious or political belief, sex, gender preference, or sexual orientation. Any division among the workers can help the boss. Discrimination of worker against worker is suicide. Discrimination is a weapon of the boss. Its entire history is proof that it has served no other purpose than to pit worker against worker to their own destruction.” Austin added, “We are the union who refused to handle cargo from apartheid South Africa. We are the union who has shut down the West Coast! Why? Because there are injustices that must be addressed.”

Prawl spoke about the difference between having a moment and building a movement. “Today we don’t want this to be a moment, we want this to be a movement. The difference between a moment and a movement is sacrifice,” Prawl said. “The ILWU knows how to take action. We call on all labor to join us because we can make it stop.”

Young rebels connect for a good cause in Tacoma

Local 23’s Young Workers Committee led a delegation of members and casuals who joined a Juneteenth march in Tacoma called, “Stop Killing Us!” The event was organized by Lincoln High School students who belong to the Black Student Union. Marchers gathered at Tacoma’s Wapato Park for the photo below that shows three of the student-organizers up-front wearing black shirts with a gold-colored slogan that read, “NO JUSTICE! NO PEACE! 2020.”

Local 23 Young Workers Committee members learned about the action on an Instagram account because many high school students no longer use Facebook, which they consider to be something “for old people.”

Local 23 activists have gotten recent props and praise from the community, thanks to the June 9th action in memory of George Floyd and the Juneteenth stand-down on the 19th. Out-of-town reporters contacted Local 23 activists for interviews, including the Majority publication from the Democratic Socialists of America’s (DSA) East Bay chapter and author/professor Peter Cole, who wrote an article about the ILWU’s anti-racism work that appeared in In These Times.

While Local 23’s Young Workers Committee didn’t initiate the march, they did bring it to the attention of local leadership and promoted it to the membership. Some Local 23 members went up to Seattle for Local 19’s June-teenth action, and others were busy attending Local 23’s “stop-work” union meeting.

“Brian Skiffington and I missed the first speakers at the rally because we were at the stop work meeting, but we were able to join the march after it started,” said Local 23’s Zack Pat-tin. “We caught-up with Paul Malleck and Colin McGee from Local 5 who are both Aramark workers at Evergreen State College. They were happy to see all the A, B, and casual members from Local 23, and we even met one new casual who came on his own and introduced himself when he saw us at the end of the march.”

Another young worker, Local 23 ID Casual Nyef Mohamed, said the Juneteenth march meant a lot to him.

“Marching the streets for Juneteenth in the city where I grew up was a powerful moment, and seeing that the action was organized by local high school students was inspiring,” he said, adding that, “Juneteenth needs to be a national holiday.”

Celebrating Black Lives in Portland

Local 8 members in Portland participated in a “Celebration of Black Lives” event on Juneteenth. Union members assembled at Peninsula Park in North Portland, then marched through the historically Black neighborhoods along Rosa Parks Boulevard and Martin Luther King Boulevard, ending at the MLK Jr. Elementary School. Organizers wanted to highlight the ongoing threat of gentrification that has displaced many African-American and Latino families in the area. Shown in the park photo, above to the left, are (L-R): Ashely Monroe, William Paul, Rod Carlson, Levi Manning, David Porter, Stephanie Evans, Lily Womack and Dakatalah Camberg. The event was sponsored by the “Big Yard Foundation” as part of their community empowerment mission.
ILWU stands down at West Coast ports for historic Juneteenth action to honor Black lives

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International officers

At the morning rally, President Adams and International Secretary-Treasurer Ed Ferris spoke on behalf of the International. “We’re not working today. We’re standing in solidarity,” Adams said. He called on police officers to stop their fellow officers when they see them engaging in misconduct. “Good cops have got to start checking those bad cops. You can’t stand by and let something happen. You’re just as guilty,” Adams said.

Ferris spoke passionately about the impact that George Floyd’s murder has had on him. “That video changed my life,” Ferris explained as he referenced the ILWU slogan, “An injury to one is an injury to all.”

“Until the US addresses its deep-rooted racial inequalities,” Ferris said, “Americans will not be truly free. Until the color of your skin is as important as your hair color or your eye color, we are not all going to be free. I’m so grateful to see this diverse group of people because we are fed up.”

Saving the Port of Oakland

Local 10 pensioner and long-time activist Clarence Thomas has been a leader against racial injustice for decades and remains active in today’s struggles. He spoke about the attempt by developers to build a baseball stadium, hotels and retail at the Port of Oakland. “We have to stop that,” he said. “The Howard Terminal project would destabilize the Black community in both East and West Oakland, and speed up our displacement from Oakland.”

Oakland’s Black population has declined by half in recent decades, due to pressure from gentrification and the erosion of good union jobs in the industrial and warehouse sectors.

Rally at City Hall

Boots Riley, film director and frontman for the hip hop band, The Coup, was a featured speaker at the afternoon rally. Riley spoke about the power of workers to effect change by withholding their labor and the need for people to organize at work.

“We’ve had, these past two weeks, millions of people in the street all over the country in every single city in the United States. And right now we’re at a point where people are like, ‘What’s the next step?’ And a lot of that question is a question of power.” Riley continued. “What is power? How does it work? What is our power? And that’s what today is answering. Our power comes from the fact that we create the wealth. Wealth is power. We have the ability to withhold that power. Whenever you work, wherever you are doing the day, that’s where you need to be organizing.”

Other speakers at the City Hall rally included young leaders from the Bay Area and across the country, including Chris Smalls, who was fired by Amazon after he helped organize a work stoppage at the company’s warehouse on Staten Island, New York, to protest the lack of protective gear and hazard pay for workers.

One of the youngest speakers was recent high school graduate and Bay Area activist Lauryn Campbell of Black Youth for the People’s Liberation. The group organized a march on June 8 in East Oakland to protest the killing of Oakland resident Erik Salgado by California Highway Patrol officers.

“Today we are here to say we’re done,” Campbell told the crowd. “We’re done hiding our Blackness. We’re done looking over our shoulders. Labor takes a stand

The ILWU’s role in the Juneteenth actions was amplified by local, national and international media coverage that was overwhelmingly positive.

President Adams said the movement against police violence and racial injustice reflects the ILWU’s history and values.

“Our own union was forged out of violent police attacks during the 1934 strike. Two workers in San Francisco, Nicholas Bordoisie and Howard Sperry, were murdered by the police. From the beginning, Harry Bridges was committed to fighting racism in the labor movement because he understood that division undermines the power of the working class,” Adams said. “The ILWU has never been silent on the moral issues of the day. This historic moment required a historic response and the rank-and-file of our great union rose to the occasion.”
PPE: The Port of Long Beach delivered 46,000 masks to the Local 13 offices. The PPE is being presented by Dr. Noel Hacegaba, Deputy Executive Director at the Port of Long Beach for Administration and Operations, who was accompanied by staff members Rafael Delgado, Carlo Luzzi and Darren Knowles. “We would like to thank the Port of Long Beach for providing these masks so that we can continue to do the vital work of moving cargo as safely as possible,” said Local 13 Vice President Jesse “Nacho” Enriquez (third from left). Also pictured is Local 13 President Ramon Ponce De Leon (fifth from the left).