

RESOLUTION NO. 29214

A RESOLUTION URGING PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS IN THE CHATTANOOGA AREA TO OPT-OUT OF THE STATE FACILITIES MANAGEMENT CONTRACT.

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WHEREAS, in May 2017, the State of Tennessee finalized a contract outsourcing facilities management functions at state properties; and

WHEREAS, the contract was awarded to Jones Lang Lasalle, a company based in Chicago; and

WHEREAS, Public higher education institutions in Tennessee can opt-in to this contract if they wish; and

WHEREAS, a bipartisan coalition of seventy-five (75) members of the State General Assembly have requested more time to study and understand the effects on public services, the economy, and state workers; and

WHEREAS, recent experiences with outsourcing at the state and local levels have not been successful – costs to taxpayers more than doubled when the state motor pool was outsourced, test scores were unavailable when TNReady standardized testing was outsourced, and custodial services at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville were brought back in house after an attempt at outsourcing, and Shelby County Schools received numerous complaints about the quality of work and cleanliness of schools after outsourcing custodial services; and

WHEREAS, promises have been made to protect jobs and benefits, but it is unclear how the same number of employees can be employed with comparable benefits and produce cost savings; and

WHEREAS, under the contract, full-time employees will (1) lose paid time off; (2) be subject to transfer to another JLL managed property within a fifty (50) mile radius of their current job; (3) switch from pension to 401(k) retirement plan; and (4) will be forced to pay up-front for tuition benefits; and

WHEREAS, under the contract part-time employees receive no protections at all; and

WHEREAS, students have voiced concern about safety risks associated with the high turnover of a privatized workforce; and

WHEREAS, the Student Government Association at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and the Faculty Senates at University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and Chattanooga State Community College passed resolutions in opposition to the outsourcing plan; and

WHEREAS, faculty have raised concerns about the decline in service quality that they expect from outsourcing, and its impact on their ability to do their best work, especially as sensitive federal grants could be in jeopardy from poor service quality in technical laboratories and other specialized equipment; and

WHEREAS, millions of dollars in contracts with the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and Chattanooga State Community College, on which many small businesses in the Memphis area depend, could be terminated and awarded to out-of-state firms under this contract.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chattanooga City Council urges all Chattanooga area public higher education institutions and their administrations, including University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and Chattanooga State Community College, to opt-out and decline to participate in the state facilities services management outsourcing contract.

ADOPTED: October 17, 2017.

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