



News from

Council President Todd Gloria

City of San Diego

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Katie Keach, 619-235-5268

Council Leaders Announce Strong Workforce Measure Details *Measure to Include Access to Earned Sick Days and \$13.09 Minimum Wage*

SAN DIEGO (April 23, 2014) – Council President Todd Gloria and Council President Pro Tem Sherri Lightner today announced details of a proposed measure to strengthen San Diego's workforce.

The measure proposes access to five earned sick days per year be provided to workers in San Diego and a minimum wage of \$13.09 per hour, which would be implemented over a three year period starting in July 2015.

The current minimum wage in California is \$8.00, which will increase to \$9.00 on July 1, 2014 and to \$10.00 in January 1, 2016. If the proposed measure is approved, San Diego's minimum wage would be \$11.09 in July 2015, \$12.09 in July 2016, and reach \$13.09 in July 2017. It would then be indexed to account for future inflation starting January 1, 2018.

"This measure will allow more hardworking San Diegans to make ends meet," said Council President Gloria. **"San Diego workers and the local economy are worth this effort."**

The Center on Policy Initiatives (CPI), in partnership with the Insight Center for Community Economic Development produced a study earlier this year called Making Ends Meet. The study concluded that 38% of all working-age households in San Diego can't afford to meet basic needs. Peter Brownell, Research Director for CPI, affirmed the positive impact of the proposed measure.

Preliminary analysis shows that when fully implemented, the measure will:

- Expand access to earned sick days to over 260,000 San Diegans;
- Increase the wages of roughly 200,000 San Diegans;
- Raise the annual earnings of impacted workers an average of approximately \$2,800; and
- Put a total of approximately \$580 million into the pockets of San Diego's lowest income working families, who will turn around and spend most of that money at local stores and businesses.

"This measure would positively impact hundreds of thousands of San Diegans. At the same time it would transform the low-wage service economy into a workforce that helps strengthen our local economy," said Brownell.

Council President Gloria plans on asking voters to consider the measure on the November ballot. He noted that the proposal could be changed by the City Council. The City Council's Economic Development and Intergovernmental Relations (ED & IR) Committee will discuss the proposal at its meeting on April 30 on the 12th floor of the City Administration Building. The item is expected to be heard starting at 10:30 a.m. Council President Pro Tem Lightner, who chairs the Committee, encouraged the public to be part of this important dialog.

"San Diego won't prosper and grow business if our working people aren't prospering," said Council President Pro Tem Sherri Lightner, who chairs the ED & IR Committee. **"This proposed workforce measure will improve working families' lives and strengthen the local economy."**

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