



News from

Council President Todd Gloria

City of San Diego

NEWS RELEASE

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City Council Committee Maintains Support for Proposed Minimum Wage Increase, Earned Sick Leave

Committee to Consider Final Language on June 11

SAN DIEGO (April 30, 2014) – Council President Todd Gloria today announced additional progress toward securing an increased minimum wage and earned sick leave for San Diego workers. The City Council's Economic Development and Intergovernmental Relations (ED & IR) Committee today reviewed Council President Gloria's proposal to allow workers to earn five sick days per year and set a minimum wage of \$13.09 per hour, which would be implemented over a three year period starting in July 2015.

The ED & IR Committee today took action to direct the City Attorney's Office to work with the Council President's Office to investigate the possibility of considering the measure as an ordinance versus a ballot proposition and bring the measure back with final language for its meeting on June 11, 2014. If approved by the ED & IR Committee, the proposal could then be forwarded to the City Council for placement on the November 4, 2014 ballot or for approval.

"San Diego can strengthen our economy and strengthen our workforce by raising the minimum wage and providing access to earned sick leave for workers, and we made real progress today," said Council President Gloria. **"The feedback and discussion at today's hearing demonstrate significant support, and I appreciate the ongoing productive conversations we are having with stakeholders to develop the best measure for San Diego."**

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.

Preliminary analysis by the Center on Policy Initiatives (CPI) and the Insight Center for Community Economic Development shows that when fully implemented, the measure would:

- 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.

"We know our economy is stronger when we reward an honest day's work with an honest day's pay, and in America's Finest City, nobody should have to lose a day's pay for taking care of a sick loved one, and nobody who works full time should be forced to live in poverty," said Robert Nothoff, Research and Policy Analyst for CPI.

The ED & IR Committee discussed the concept of these workforce strengthening measures at its meeting of March 24, 2014 and asked Council President Gloria to work with the City Attorney to develop the draft ordinance.

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