



News from

Council President Todd Gloria

City of San Diego

NEWS RELEASE

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Raises and Sick Leave for Workers Preserved by City Council *City Council Overrides Mayor's Veto of Minimum Wage-Earned Sick Leave Ordinance*

SAN DIEGO (August 18, 2014) – The San Diego City Council today preserved earned sick leave opportunities for San Diegans and raises for local minimum wage workers when they voted to override the Mayor's veto of the measure. The vote was 6-2. Today's vote serves as the final legislative act, and the measure will go into effect on January 1, 2015.

"Today, more San Diegans know that they will be better able to buy groceries and pay their rent starting in January," said Council President Todd Gloria. **"Today, the City Council stood up for 63% of San Diegans who support fair wages and a responsible sick leave policy, and all of our city will be better off."**

The ordinance would provide access to five earned sick days a year for 279,000 working San Diegans and result in raises for at least 172,000 San Diegans.

The new \$11.50 minimum wage will be phased in through 2017 with indexing to inflation starting on January 1, 2019. On January 1, 2015, the wage will increase to \$9.75. It will move to \$10.50 on January 1, 2016, and reach \$11.50 on January 1, 2017. The proposal includes no exemptions for any industry or business. The ordinance also allows all workers to earn up to five sick days per year.

"Thanks to Council President Gloria and the other councilmembers, I will not be forced to choose between going to work sick and losing a day's pay. The San Diego minimum wage means I will be able to keep up with my rent and buy groceries," said Jessie Thomas, a waitress and full-time student.

The measure was initiated by Council President Gloria, who included his desire to increase the minimum wage in his State of the City address on January 15, 2014.

Councilmember Myrtle Cole participated in the special meeting by phone from City Hall in Duluth, Georgia, where she is assisting a family member. Councilmember Mark Kersey participated by phone from Ohio, where he is spending time with his family.

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