



News from

Council President Todd Gloria

City of San Diego

STATEMENT

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Council President Gloria Comments on Anti-Minimum Wage Signatures

SAN DIEGO (September 16, 2014) – Council President Todd Gloria today released the following statement after corporate interests turned in petitions to overturn the City Council-approved measure increasing the minimum wage and providing sick days to workers.

“Considering the expense and deceit that big business poured into this campaign, I am not surprised that this many signatures were collected. With corporate interests flying in signature gatherers from other states and paying them up to \$12 per signature, I understand the workers’ willingness to go to extreme lengths to cajole people into signing. Tactics used included telling potential signers outrageous lies like that the petition was to increase the minimum wage.

“While the minimum wage opponents turned in signatures today, further work is necessary to ensure the signatures are valid. With the knowledge that hundreds of people rescinded their signatures after learning the true purpose of the petition, and with the understanding that 63% of San Diegans support the reasonable minimum wage increase, certification of the necessary signatures is not assured.

“I request that the referendum organizers allow supporters of the minimum wage and earned sick leave ordinance to observe the official counting of the signatures. While excessive evidence demonstrated the organizers’ willingness to deceive the public to reach their desired result of denying raises and benefits for 279,000 San Diegans, it is imperative that an honest count occur and that the signatures gathered are scrutinized for validity.

“The documented deceit of the signature gatherers over the last 30 days raises concerns over our referendum process that may be worth examining to ensure this process is used as legitimate check and balance and not as a way for a small group of people with deep pockets to buy results that could not be attained through the public process.

“The fight for fair wages and benefits continues, and I am confident that it will result in a better quality of life for our neighbors and a stronger economy for our city. I join with 63% of San Diegans in support of a new minimum wage of \$11.50 by 2017 and the ability for workers to earn five sick days, and I trust these benefits will be affirmed sooner rather than later.”

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