

Communication from Public

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Council File No: 14-1371-S13

Comments for Public Posting: Council File: 14-1371-S13 5/12/23 The Koreatown Immigrant Workers Alliance (KIWA) in council district 10, we are writing in strong support of the motion introduced by Councilmember Curren Price and co-sponsored by Councilmember Katy Yaroslovsky to amend the Los Angeles Living Wage Ordinance and the Los Angeles Hotel Worker Minimum Wage Ordinance requiring \$25/hr now & \$30/hr by 2028, quality health care, and worker protections, as a matter of economic justice, housing justice, and public safety. Founded in 1992, KIWA organizes immigrant workers in restaurant and retail industries to improve working conditions. Similar to the sectors we target, the tourism industry is built on the back of its workers, who are systematically exploited. Improving wages and working conditions is crucial to not only supporting the economy but also preventing homelessness. The tourism industry has made a recovery from the pandemic with billions of dollars of public investment and is assured a future of growth with major events like the Olympics attracting visitors from around the world to our beautiful city. It's time for the workers at LAX and hotels to get their fair share of the profitable tourism industry that wouldn't be possible without them. If our community members are not making enough money to afford rent, they will continue to be displaced or risk losing their homes. LA already has the highest number of unhoused people in the nation, and it's unacceptable that the workers who are the backbone of a major economic engine are disproportionately rent-burdened. With the current state of the housing crisis and rising cost of rent, families need to earn enough money to live where they work. Tourism workers were among many frontline workers and communities of color who bore the brunt of the pandemic, yet many still lack quality health care. We're calling for the council's support to ensure our tourism workers receive family-sustaining wages, quality health care, and workplace protections. Our tourism workers are heads of households, many of them are single parents, and they're our neighbors, friends, and family members. Los Angeles should be a place where everyone can thrive.



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