

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 12/10/2024 06:38 AM

Council File No: 14-1371-S13

Comments for Public Posting: For the Limited-service 150 Guest Room Carve Out Amendment.

December 9, 2024

The Honorable Council President Marqueece Harris-Dawson

Los Angeles City Council

City of Los Angeles

200 N. Spring Street #470

Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Council File 14-1371-S13: Los Angeles Hotel Worker Minimum Wage Ordinance

Dear Council President Harris-Dawson,

My name is Jeliben Patel, and I am the owner of the Catalina 8 Inn located at 812 S Catalina St., Los Angeles, CA 90005. When I first immigrated to the United States from India, I purchased this hotel with the hope of building a better life for my family. Over the years, this business has been the foundation for our livelihood and has allowed us to contribute to the community.

The proposed wage ordinance puts my family's future at serious risk. As a small, independent hotel owner, I cannot afford such a significant increase in wages. Our business is already struggling as tourism in Los Angeles has not fully recovered, and our guests are primarily locals looking for affordable accommodations.

If this ordinance passes, we won't be able to raise rates without losing our guests, who are extremely price-sensitive. Larger hotels with more amenities can charge higher rates, but for small, budget properties like mine, this is not an option.

This wage increase would force us to close our doors, leaving my family without our primary source of income and my employees without jobs. My family's entire livelihood depends on this business, and this ordinance threatens to take that away.

I respectfully urge you to consider an exemption for hotels with fewer than 150 rooms. Small, family-owned businesses like mine cannot shoulder the same financial burden as larger corporate hotels.

Thank you for your time and understanding. Please consider the devastating impact this ordinance would have on immigrant families and small businesses like mine.

Sincerely,
Jeliben Patel
Owner and Operator
Catalina 8 Hotel

CC:

Mayor Karen Bass

Rachel Freeman, Deputy Mayor, Office of Karen Bass

Members, Los Angeles City Council
Sharon Tso, Chief Legislative Analyst
Matthew Szabo, City Administrative Officer

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Los Angeles City Council

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200 N. Spring Street #470

Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Council File 14-1371-S13: Los Angeles Hotel Worker Minimum Wage Ordinance

Dear Council President Harris-Dawson,

My name is Vandana Patel, and I own the Friendship Motor Inn located at 1148 Crenshaw Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019. I am an immigrant and a proud woman business owner who has worked hard to build and sustain this small hotel.

The proposed wage ordinance threatens the future of my business. Like many small hotels, we rely entirely on room rates for revenue. We don't have the luxury of offering additional services or amenities to make up for the rising costs. Our guests are mostly locals who choose us for our clean, affordable rooms.

Tourism has not fully returned to Los Angeles, and raising our rates to cover higher wages would push away the few guests we have. If we charge more, we would be

competing with larger hotels that can offer far more amenities—why would anyone stay at a budget hotel without budget prices?

If this ordinance passes, I won't be able to keep my doors open. My family will lose our business, our employees will lose their jobs, and we will default on our loans. This is not just about numbers; it's about people—families who have worked hard and contributed to this city for years.

I respectfully ask that you consider an exemption for hotels with fewer than 150 rooms. Small, family-owned businesses like mine are not equipped to absorb these costs the way larger corporations can.

Thank you for your time and understanding. Please consider the impact this will have on immigrant and women-owned businesses like mine, and on the affordable lodging options that our communities rely on.

Sincerely,
Vandana Patel
Owner and Operator
Friendship Motor Inn

CC:
Mayor Karen Bass
Rachel Freeman, Deputy Mayor, Office of Karen Bass
Members, Los Angeles City Council
Sharon Tso, Chief Legislative Analyst

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 12/10/2024 06:39 AM

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December 6, 2024

The Honorable Council President Marqueece Harris-Dawson

Los Angeles City Council

City of Los Angeles

200 N. Spring Street #470

Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Council File 14-1371-S13: Los Angeles Hotel Worker Minimum Wage Ordinance

Dear Council President Harris-Dawson,

My name is Jessal Bhakta, and I own and operate the Harvard Motor Inn at 1575 West Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90062. I am an immigrant and a proud woman business owner. I purchased this motel to build a better future for my family, but this wage ordinance threatens everything I've worked for.

My guests are locals, not tourists, and they need affordable rooms. I can't raise my rates without losing them, and I don't have other ways to bring in money like big hotels do. If this wage increase passes, I won't be able to afford it, and I will have to close my business.

I ask you to please make an exception for small motels like mine with fewer than 150 rooms. We are not large corporations—we are small family businesses trying to survive.

Thank you for your time and understanding. I hope you will consider the impact this ordinance will have on families like mine.

Sincerely,
Jessal Bhakta
Owner and Operator
Harvard Motor Inn

CC:
Mayor Karen Bass
Rachel Freeman, Deputy Mayor, Office of Karen Bass
Members, Los Angeles City Council
Sharon Tso, Chief Legislative Analyst
Matthew Szabo, City Administrative Officer

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December 9, 2024

The Honorable Council President Marqueece Harris-Dawson
Los Angeles City Council
City of Los Angeles
200 N. Spring Street #213
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Council File 14-1371-S13: Los Angeles Living Wage Ordinance (LWO)/Los Angeles Hotel Worker Minimum Wage Ordinance (LA HWMO)/Wage Increase/Health Care Credit/Public Housekeeping Training/Amendments

Dear Council President Harris-Dawson,

My name is Madhu Babla, and I am the owner and operator of the Metropolitan Inn and Suites, located at 946 S. Bonnie Brae St., Los Angeles, CA 90006. I am an immigrant woman who has owned and operated this hotel for over 30 years. This hotel has been my life's work and my family's livelihood.

The proposed Los Angeles Hotel Worker Minimum Wage Ordinance would force small, family-owned hotels like mine out of business. Unlike large corporate hotels that

cater to tourists and generate revenue through amenities like bars, restaurants, and spas, my guests are primarily local residents who are seeking a clean, safe, and affordable place to stay.

Our daily room rates range between \$60 and \$80, and even at this price, my guests are incredibly price-sensitive. Raising rates is simply not an option—we would lose the few guests we have to other properties. Tourism in Los Angeles has not returned to pre-pandemic levels, and my hotel does not benefit from the international travelers who once supported this industry.

With this wage ordinance, I would not be able to afford my employees' wages. My hotel, which employs a small team, would face devastating financial strain. If I am unable to make payroll, I will have no choice but to close my doors, lay off my employees, and default on the loans that I have worked so hard to pay over the years.

Small, family-operated hotels like mine are the backbone of this city's hospitality industry. Immigrant families like mine have spent decades contributing to Los Angeles—creating jobs, generating millions in transient occupancy taxes, and supporting our communities. This ordinance feels like a punishment rather than support for the hardworking individuals who helped build this city.

I urge you to carve out an exemption for hotels with fewer than 150 rooms. Independent hotels cannot be held to the

same standards as large corporate chains with significantly greater resources. Without this consideration, many family-owned hotels will be forced out of business, devastating the families who depend on them.

Thank you for your time and for considering the voices of small business owners like myself. I hope you will make a decision that preserves the livelihood of immigrant families and protects the community-focused businesses that have supported Los Angeles for decades.

Sincerely,
Madhu Babla
Owner and Operator
Metropolitan Inn and Suites

CC:
Mayor Karen Bass
Rachel Freeman, Deputy Mayor, Office of Karen Bass
Members, Los Angeles City Council
Sharon Tso, Chief Legislative Analyst
Matthew Szabo, City Administrative Officer

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 12/10/2024 06:40 AM

Council File No: 14-1371-S13

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December 9, 2024

The Honorable Council President Marqueece Harris-Dawson

Los Angeles City Council

City of Los Angeles

200 N. Spring Street #213

Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Council File 14-1371-S13: Los Angeles Living Wage Ordinance (LWO)/Los Angeles Hotel Worker Minimum Wage Ordinance (LA HWMO)/Wage Increase/Health Care Credit/Public Housekeeping Training/Amendments

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The proposed Los Angeles Hotel Worker Minimum Wage Ordinance would force small, family-owned hotels like mine out of business. Unlike large corporate hotels that

cater to tourists and generate revenue through amenities like bars, restaurants, and spas, my guests are primarily local residents who are seeking a clean, safe, and affordable place to stay.

Our daily room rates range between \$60 and \$80, and even at this price, my guests are incredibly price-sensitive. Raising rates is simply not an option—we would lose the few guests we have to other properties. Tourism in Los Angeles has not returned to pre-pandemic levels, and my hotel does not benefit from the international travelers who once supported this industry.

With this wage ordinance, I would not be able to afford my employees' wages. My hotel, which employs a small team, would face devastating financial strain. If I am unable to make payroll, I will have no choice but to close my doors, lay off my employees, and default on the loans that I have worked so hard to pay over the years.

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I urge you to carve out an exemption for hotels with fewer than 150 rooms. Independent hotels cannot be held to the

same standards as large corporate chains with significantly greater resources. Without this consideration, many family-owned hotels will be forced out of business, devastating the families who depend on them.

Thank you for your time and for considering the voices of small business owners like myself. I hope you will make a decision that preserves the livelihood of immigrant families and protects the community-focused businesses that have supported Los Angeles for decades.

Sincerely,
Madhu Babla
Owner and Operator
Metropolitan Inn and Suites

CC:
Mayor Karen Bass
Rachel Freeman, Deputy Mayor, Office of Karen Bass
Members, Los Angeles City Council
Sharon Tso, Chief Legislative Analyst
Matthew Szabo, City Administrative Officer

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City of Los Angeles

200 N. Spring Street #470

Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Council File 14-1371-S13: Los Angeles Living Wage Ordinance (LWO)/Los Angeles Hotel Worker Minimum Wage Ordinance (LA HWMO)/Wage Increase/Health Care Credit/Public Housekeeping Training/Amendments

Dear Council President Harris-Dawson,

My name is Payal Patel, and I am the proud owner of the Motel 6 located at 906 S. Alvarado St., Los Angeles, CA 90006. As an immigrant woman and small business owner, I have dedicated my life to building this business, which provides affordable accommodations to the local community and supports my family and employees.

As a franchised property, my Motel 6 is governed by strict brand standards that limit us to a single revenue stream: room rates. We are prohibited from charging for services like Wi-Fi, TV, phones, or breakfast. This makes it

impossible to offset the additional costs that would come with the proposed wage ordinance.

Our guests are primarily locals, as tourism has yet to return to Los Angeles after the pandemic, and it does not appear to be recovering anytime soon. Many of our guests are extremely price-sensitive and rely on affordable lodging options like ours. If we were forced to raise rates to cover increased payroll costs, our guests would seek out higher-end hotels that offer significantly more amenities at comparable prices.

This wage ordinance unfairly burdens small, family-owned hotels like mine, which do not have the resources or revenue streams of larger, corporate-owned properties. If this ordinance passes, I will have no choice but to close my business, default on my loans, and lay off my employees—many of whom are also from immigrant families who rely on this job to make a living.

For over 30 years, immigrant-owned and operated businesses like mine have been the backbone of the Los Angeles lodging industry. We have contributed millions in transient occupancy taxes and provided affordable accommodations to residents and visitors alike. This ordinance does not reflect the values of fairness or opportunity that drew my family to this country.

I urge you to consider an exemption for hotels with fewer than 150 rooms. Small, independent hotels cannot be held

to the same standards as larger hotels with far greater resources. Without this carve-out, this ordinance will devastate family-owned businesses like mine and erode the affordable lodging options that so many residents depend on.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I hope you will stand with small, immigrant-owned businesses and make a decision that protects our livelihoods and communities.

Sincerely,
Payal Patel
Owner and Operator
Motel 6

CC:

Mayor Karen Bass
Rachel Freeman, Deputy Mayor, Office of Karen Bass
Members, Los Angeles City Council
Sharon Tso, Chief Legislative Analyst
Matthew Szabo, City Administrative Officer

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Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Council File 14-1371-S13: Los Angeles Hotel Worker Minimum Wage Ordinance

Dear Council President Harris-Dawson,

My name is Nayana Patel, and I am the owner and operator of the Tropicana Inn at 5444 Fountain Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90029. I have lived in California for over 45 years, and I purchased this hotel when I first immigrated from India to build a better life for my family.

This wage ordinance threatens the livelihood I've worked so hard to create. My guests are locals who need clean and affordable rooms. They are not tourists, and I cannot raise my rates without losing them. Unlike larger hotels, I do not have additional revenue streams to cover these increased costs. If this ordinance passes, I will not be able to afford the higher wages and will likely have to close my business.

I respectfully ask you to consider an exemption for small, family-operated motels with fewer than 150 rooms. We

are not large corporations with endless resources. We are small businesses trying to survive and support our families.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to my concerns. I hope you will consider the impact this ordinance will have on independent hotel owners like me.

Sincerely,
Nayana Patel
Owner and Operator
Tropicana Inn

CC:

Mayor Karen Bass
Rachel Freeman, Deputy Mayor, Office of Karen Bass
Members, Los Angeles City Council
Sharon Tso, Chief Legislative Analyst
Matthew Szabo, City Administrative Officer

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 12/10/2024 06:41 AM

Council File No: 14-1371-S13

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