

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 10/31/2023 05:35 PM

Council File No: 14-1371-S13

Comments for Public Posting: South Asian Network is writing in strong support of the LA City Council motion 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. South Asian Network is in full support of this ordinance. We serve community members who come from the low-income working class. We have worked closely to ensure the workers are protected against exploitation and fraud by organizing workers rights workshops. In 2008, we negotiated back-pay settlements with about eight South Asian businesses and fought against labor exploitation. Supporting this motion, we carry out our work to ensure that hotel workers get fair pay for their work. This motion was introduced in April of 2023, almost seven months ago. Meanwhile, tourism workers, despite being the backbone of our economy in Los Angeles, are struggling to keep a roof over their heads as housing costs continue to skyrocket in Los Angeles. LA City Council has the power to ensure these members of our community are healthy and housed, and we urge you to do everything you can to move this policy forward without delay. The tourism industry's recovery from the pandemic was supported with billions of dollars of public investment and it is now assured a future of growth with major events like the 2028 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 already disproportionately rent-burdened. With the current state of the housing crisis and rising cost of rent, employers in such a profitable and growing industry must pay their workers enough so they can afford 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. South Asian Network calls on the City Council to rise to the occasion and move this policy forward as soon as possible to ensure that tourism workers are healthy and housed.



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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "AKS", with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.