

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Timothy Leavitt  
**Date Submitted:** 05/02/2024 07:22 PM  
**Council File No:** 14-1371-S13

**Comments for Public Posting:** Westwood Hills Congregational Church UCC (WHCC) 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. At WHCC we believe that our faith calls us to care for the marginalized and downtrodden people in society, much as Jesus himself did. We believe that in the face of rising costs of living, especially in the Los Angeles area, everyone deserves to make a living wage that can house and feed their family. Multibillion-dollar corporations can afford to pay their workers a living wage; they simply choose not to, in order to maximize their already-healthy profit margin. We are in full support of the proposed ordinance and request its hasty approval. This motion was introduced in April of 2023, approximately a year 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. WHCC 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. Sincerely, Tim Leavitt Chair, Justice & Service board



WESTWOOD HILLS  
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Council File: 14-1371-S13

May 2, 2024

Westwood Hills Congregational Church UCC (WHCC) 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.

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Sincerely,

Tim Leavitt

Chair, Justice & Service board

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