

Communication from Public

Name: Esperanza Community Housing

Date Submitted: 02/16/2024 05:14 PM

Council File No: 14-1371-S13

Comments for Public Posting: Esperanza Community Housing 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. Please see attached letter.



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February 16, 2024

Esperanza Community Housing 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.

Esperanza works with low-income communities of color, who live at the intersection of social justice issues affecting South Central Los Angeles's communities – upholding the pillars of health, public health, housing, economic justice, environmental justice, racial and immigrant justice, and supporting local arts and culture – to achieve comprehensive, long-term equitable community development in the Figueroa Corridor of South Central Los Angeles. **We are in full support of this ordinance.** Tourism workers, many of whom live in low-income communities, contribute largely to this city. However, as with so many low-income workers and other frontline workers, they face high rent, high utilities, and more which puts them and their families at risk of displacement and becoming unhoused. The communities that we serve and advocate for deserve a living wage that allows them to be able to live in this city.

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.

Esperanza Community Housing 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nancy Halpern Ibrahim", followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Nancy Halpern Ibrahim
Executive Director