

Communication from Public

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Comments for Public Posting: Dear Economic, Community Development and Jobs Committee, I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to propose strategies for strengthening the Living Wage Ordinance and the Hotel Worker Minimum Wage Ordinance in Los Angeles by incorporating adjustments based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI). By implementing this measure, we can ensure that wages consistently keep pace with the rising cost of living, thereby preserving the purchasing power of our workers and fostering a more equitable economic landscape.

1. Indexing Wages to the CPI: To begin with, I propose including a clause in both ordinances mandating annual adjustments to wages based on the CPI. Such automatic adjustments would account for cost-of-living increases, ensuring that wages not only retain their value over time but also offer a sustainable living for workers. It is crucial to utilize a specific CPI index that reflects local economic conditions in Los Angeles.
2. Establish Clear Metrics: Defining a clear methodology for calculating the CPI adjustments is vital. This would entail designating a base year for comparison, establishing a frequency for updates, and determining how to address high inflation periods. Additionally, setting a threshold for adjustments—such as a percentage increase in CPI—would provide an objective trigger for wage increases.
3. Public Awareness and Support: An effective outreach campaign informing workers, employers, and the community about the significance of CPI wage indexing is essential. This initiative should focus on how such changes would enhance purchasing power and improve overall living conditions. Furthermore, community engagement with labor unions and organizations would galvanize support for these necessary changes.
4. Policy Recommendations to City Council: Collaboration with policymakers and legal experts to draft an amendment to the ordinances is essential. Legislative advocacy to prioritize these amendments in city council discussions will be critical. We must frame this proposal as a central issue in ongoing policy debates about wages.
5. Monitoring and Reporting: Establishing a regular reporting system on wage levels, CPI changes, and worker impacts will provide transparency and accountability. I also propose creating an advisory committee with a diverse group of stakeholders, including workers, employers, and economists, to

review CPI data and recommend wage adjustments as necessary.

6. Evaluate Economic Impact: It is vital to conduct economic studies evaluating the effects of CPI indexing on local businesses and worker wellbeing. A sustainability assessment would help us understand the potential impact on small businesses and develop support mechanisms for those that might be adversely affected.

7. Incorporation of Additional Factors: Given Los Angeles's high living costs, additional provisions may be necessary to account for housing expenses when adjusting wages alongside CPI. Furthermore, recognizing the unique challenges various sectors face will enhance our approach and create more tailored wage adjustment methods.

In conclusion, by strengthening the Living Wage Ordinance and Hotel Worker Minimum Wage Ordinance through CPI indexing, we can ensure fair wages for all workers in Los Angeles. A structured plan, stakeholder engagement, and thoughtful advocacy will be crucial in making these necessary amendments a reality. Together, let's work towards a more equitable wage system that responds effectively to our ever-changing economic environment. Thank you for considering this important proposal. Sincerely, Monisha Parker