

Communication from Public

Name: Timothy Leavitt
Date Submitted: 03/18/2024 12:40 PM
Council File No: 14-1371-S13

Comments for Public Posting: The Justice & Service board of Westwood Hills Congregational Church UCC 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. Our Justice & Service board's core mission is to advocate for the dignity and fair treatment of all workers, especially those who serve others as selflessly as our local tourism workers. We fully support this ordinance and request that you fast-track it for passage as soon as possible. As Christians, we believe economic justice is a core pillar of Jesus's theology and teachings, and with the hospitality industry's recent economic growth and success, it is imperative that some of those windfalls be shared with the workers who make it all happen. This motion was introduced in April of 2023, almost one 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. The Justice & Service board of Westwood Hills Congregational Church UCC 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 UCC



WESTWOOD HILLS
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Monday, March 18, 2024

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Sincerely,

Tim Leavitt
chair, Justice & Service board
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