

Communication from Public

Name: Ismael Parra, SoCal. Chapter Chair, National Writers Union

Date Submitted: 08/07/2021 10:11 AM

Council File No: 21-0107

Comments for Public Posting: As chair person of the Southern California Chapter of the National Writers Union, I wish to indicate that our members write not for a single publication but for very many. As Freelancers, we do not have one employer but are compensated by the many different employers that any single one of us may have. This legislation, which was already passed in New York, will help toward resolving issues of wage abuse and wage theft by a few employers. The purpose is not to determine if workers should be classified as employees or freelancers, but rather to ensure that those who hire Freelancers treat them fairly and meet their obligations and promises as employers. Local legislation will, of course, include exemptions and exclusions required by State law, including Proposition 22, and take into account atypical industries whose freelance workers are protected by collective bargaining or similar agreements. Thank you for your attention to this important issue for those that write to our shared constituents.

Communication from Public

Name: Omar Majette (Make the Most of your 24)

Date Submitted: 08/18/2021 10:30 AM

Council File No: 21-0107

Comments for Public Posting: Comment on Item 14 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND JOBS COMMITTEE REPORT relative to a local version of New York City's "Freelance Isn't Free Act." In total support of City Council motion to implement a Los Angeles version of the "Freelance Act" to further protect freelance workers through legislation. Recommend that City Council require all freelance work compensation be clarified in writing prior to the commencement of the requested services. In addition both parties must sign in agreement to avoid potential compensation issues. Thanks for your consideration Omar Majette Owner Make the Most of your 24 (Non-Profit)

Communication from Public

Name: Chioma Thompson

Date Submitted: 08/18/2021 01:41 PM

Council File No: 21-0107

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing to support Council Blumenfield's motion, Council File 21-0107, to have the City Council adopt a NY-like Freelance Isn't Free law. The NYC Freelance Isn't Free Law establishes and enhances protections for freelance workers, specifically the right to a written contract, timely and full payment, and protection from retaliation. The law establishes penalties for violations of these rights, including statutory damages, double damages, injunctive relief, and attorneys' fees and costs. For more information, visit nyc.gov/workers. The NY City Dept of Consumer and Worker Protection (DCWP) oversees and enforces the FIF, and a host of other city labor laws that cover precarious workers. In their 2020 State of Workers Rights Report, even with the COVID lockdown, there were 490 complaints filed, and 491 investigations opened. Of those, 450 were for unlawful payment practices. More than \$284,000 was collected in restitution and penalties. These numbers are for all independent contractors, not just freelance writers and authors. There were 528 cases filed for unlawful payment practices in 2018 and 663 in 2019, with \$735,100 and \$644,667 being recovered in restitution and penalties respectively. Freelance Isn't Free works and protects the growing number of independent contractors in the US economy. That's why the National Writers Union and the Freelancers Union are supporting Councilmember Blumenfield's motion to have the City of LA adopt a version of the Freelance Isn't Free Act, being heard in the City Council's Economic Development & Jobs Committee.