

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
AND TECHNOLOGY
COMMITTEE**

**OCTOBER 21, 2015
CORRESPONDENCE**



October 20, 2015

Victor Gordo, Chair and Members
Economic Development and Technology Committee
City of Pasadena
100 North Garfield Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91101
VIA EMAIL

Dear Mr. Gordo and Committee Members,

The Pasadena City Council is considering raising the minimum wage in Pasadena to \$15 per hour by 2020, following the City of Los Angeles.

Consistently, the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce has expressed serious concerns about the haste with which this highly impactful proposal is being considered. While measures to ban polystyrene use, raise utility rates and ban plastic bags have followed community involved processes involving significant and aggressive outreach by the City, raising the minimum wage in Pasadena appears to be hurried along at the request of unions and advocates without any real analysis of impacts here.

Initially, we were concerned when the Economic Development and Technology Committee were only going to hold three meetings to gather information and hear testimony on raising the minimum wage in Pasadena. Now, we are given to understand those fact finding meetings have been collapsed into two, with a 'deliberations' meeting in December.

Currently, there is one public meeting scheduled to hear a staff report on what other California municipalities are doing and inviting input from advocates. A second meeting to hear testimony from those with concerns or alternatives to the Los Angeles minimum wage model is planned for November 19th along with a panel of economists, none of whom is familiar with, or has studied, Pasadena. Following that meeting, it is unclear at this time if the committee will deliberate and make a recommendation to the full City Council on a minimum wage increase for Pasadena, though a committee meeting is scheduled for December to discuss minimum wage.

At the Chamber, we believe it is important to have an informed process with economic analysis that concentrates on what implementing the Los Angeles minimum wage model would do to our Pasadena economy, workforce, employment and businesses. We also would like to see meaningful opportunities for all stakeholders, not just the advocates, to provide input and make recommendations for consideration by the committee and the City Council.

Statewide, the minimum wage rises to \$10 per hour on January 1st. Any proposal for Pasadena would not go into effect until July 1, 2016. We think there is more than enough time to make an informed decision on minimum wage in Pasadena.

The Pasadena Chamber of Commerce would like to see a thoughtful, independent, comprehensive economic analysis performed specific to Pasadena and our economy. The City's interest will be best served when our elected officials have data specific to local employment, businesses, non-profits and youth employment opportunities before you consider raising the local minimum wage. We also would like to see a process that involves real and meaningful input into discussion of a minimum wage increase in Pasadena.

Thank you for your service to Pasadena. Please consider our point of view as you deliberate on this very important issue.

Sincerely,



Paul Little
President and Chief Executive Officer

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