

Jomsky, Mark

From: Paul Little <Paul@pasadena-chamber.org>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2015 7:16 AM
To: City_Council
Cc: Jomsky, Mark; Beck, Michael
Subject: Minimum Wage discussion public comment

Good morning,

I am on out of town and unable to attend Monday's meeting to provide input from the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce on the minimum wage discussion.

Please consider this preliminary comments from the Pasadena Chamber.

The Pasadena Chamber represents 1400 member businesses in the greater Pasadena area. 80% of those businesses are small and locally owned. Many are restaurants, retailers and others who rely on minimum wage employees.

The Chamber also understands the importance of our hospitality and retail businesses to our local economy.

The Pasadena Chamber is aware of the initiatives recently enacted in the City of Los Angeles and Los Angeles County. We are very concerned that the Pasadena City Council may seek to react similar minimum wage provisions without having adequate information about impacts to employment, poverty, local businesses and our local economy.

First, for this discussion, the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce would like the City Council to take the time to observe the increases recently enacted and examine the impacts there before considering an increase in our city. Why follow Los Angeles and LA County in enacting an increase when we can carefully and objectively observe what happens there first? Let's take time to intelligently and objectively see what local minimum wage increases have on employment, wages, poverty, businesses and the economy in our area before we enact an increase that could have serious impacts on our economic future.

If you choose to take up a minimum wage ordinance for Pasadena, we would urge the City Council to hire an independent analyst to perform an impact study that would look at many potential impacts, including the cost to local small businesses and how they would cope with the increase as well as the overall effect on our local economy. We would encourage you to contract with an economic analyst firm that has not already been engaged by any of the entities that have recently enacted increases, as those analysts were each, in their own way, considered suspect by those either supporting or opposing increases. Also, an analysis should contain potentially mitigating measures the city could enact that would help offset increased costs to our local businesses.

At the Chamber, we are especially concerned about unintended consequences, especially when other local municipalities and similar cities do not enact a higher minimum wage. Any analysis should consider Pasadena's competitiveness and ability to attract and keep businesses vital to our economy.

Should you choose to examine a minimum wage increase for Pasadena, we would also suggest the City Council impanel a citizen and business working group to discuss, analyze and make recommendations about any possible minimum wage increase. That panel should be equally balanced, with members representing

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those supporting an increase and those concerned about impact to business and our Pasadena economy in equal numbers. They should be empowered to make recommendations on economic analysis and take input from citizens and business owners. That panel should have adequate time to consider measures, analyze data and make a considered recommendation.

Thank you for your service to our city and for taking the time to consider input from the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce.

Paul Little

cc: M. Jomsky, M. Beck