

COUNCIL COMMITTEE MINUTES

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COMMITTEE NAME: LAW AND LEGISLATION
MEETING DATE: July 30, 1996
MEETING TIME: 1:00 P.M.
LOCATION: 915 I Street, 2nd Floor, Council Chambers

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Deborah Ortiz, Chairperson.

ROLL CALL

Present: Committee Members Fargo (arrived at 1:07), Steinberg, Waters, Ortiz
Absent: None

2.0 STAFF REPORTS

2.1 Living Wage Act of 1996

Recommendation of Staff: Approve Staff Recommendation and Forward to City Council

Committee Action: Approved and Forwarded to City Council

Michael Coleman, Sr. Management Analyst, gave an overview of proposed legislation. The proposed Living Wage Act would increase the minimum wage in California to \$5 effective March 1, 1997. It would then increase minimum wage to \$5.75 per hour on and after March 1, 1998. Congress is looking at raising the minimum wage right now. The current proposal would raise minimum wage from \$4.25 to \$4.75 effective this fall and to \$5.15 effect January 1, 1997. Fiscal impact on the City: the City has just one classification that this would effect and that is a Youth Aide position that we employ seasonally. Net impact would be about \$70,000 a year.

Hillary Wilson, asked Council to please support this bill.

Rebecca Dowd, asked Council to support this bill.

Doris Sanford, minimum wage worker, takes care of disabled person - asked Council to support this bill.

Carla Tillman, asked Council to support this bill.

Council Member Steinberg, feels that it boils down to basic fairness. People who work hard should have the right to make enough money to support themselves and families.

Council Member Waters, is sympathetic to minimum wage but also looks at it from a businessman's point of view. He doesn't feel a small increase is going to allow people to be in a position to do more with their money.

Committee Chair Ortiz, stated that we have seen a huge polarization in class and a huge increase in poverty.

A motion was made by Committee Member Steinberg, seconded by Committee Member Fargo to forward this report to full City Council with the Committee's recommendation to support the Living Wage Act of 1996. The motion carried with a 3-0 vote. Committee Member Waters voted "no".

2.2 Proposed Tow Services Agreement

Recommendation of Staff:

Approve Staff Recommendation and Forward to City Council

Committee Action:

Approved and Forwarded to City Council

Jane Christenson, Police Dept., gave a brief overview of report. In response to council questions from June 25, 1996 meeting. They have come back on a number of report-back issues, the most significant of which is the establishment of the victim fund for those who have had their vehicle stolen. They have laid out several options. The policy options fit into two categories: 1) involve city funding/victim fund 2) surcharge on other tow customers to pay for victim fund.

City Attorney Bruce Cline, said they the City Attorney's office have discussed and researched several of the options listed and are concerned about the gift of funds aspect of it. A number of the proposals that have been bounced around include providing money to any person who is a victim of auto theft regardless of their income level. It is the City Attorney's office opinion that if the City were to be the one providing the money to those victims it would be a gift of public funds and will probably be declared illegal. There are a couple of options. 1) if Council set some parameters re: indigent levels 2) trust created that was administered by some other body other than the City and monies were paid into and distributed through that.

Council Member Fargo asked if this was the only outstanding issue. Jane Christenson said that this is the issue that has to be resolved before we can proceed.

John Valencia, urged Committee to move tow agreement to full council - which is 90% of old agreement. The 10% difference is oversight by the City about citizen complaints about unfair treatment of tow operating partners and revenue to the City. On stolen vehicle issue - they (towing industry) will continue to work on defining problem Committee wants to address and how to finance them.

George Little, addressed issue about vehicles being sold. This is controlled by DMV. DMV sets a value on the car (less than \$300) so that when they sell the car they (towing business) get less than \$100. The only thing they keep is incurred cost.

Carlos Ramirez, would like to help resolve these issues. Would welcome Council Members to come to his business and see what's done.

A motion was made by Committee Member Steinberg, seconded by Committee Member Fargo to approve agreement and come back in 60 days with recommendation on how to set up some form of victim fund. The motion carried with 4-0 vote.

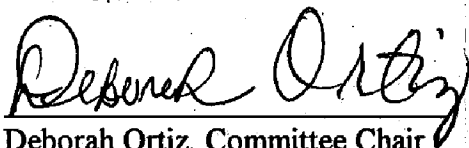
ADJOURNED - There being no further business to come before the Law & Legislation Committee, the meeting was adjourned at the hour of 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Aline Soto, Committee Secretary

APPROVED:



Deborah Ortiz, Committee Chair
