CITY OF TACOMA’S MINIMUM WAGE TASK FORCE

THE TASK FORCE’S FOURTH MEETING

Thursday, 11 June 2015
5:30 – 8:25 p.m.
The Center for Urban Waters
326 East D Street, Tacoma

DRAFT AGENDA

THE MEETING’S GOALS:

1. Discuss potential points of consensus to see if we can reduce the number of alternatives that the Task Force considers.

2. Discuss other elements to begin to develop one or two alternatives to submit to the Mayor and Council.

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NOTE: Light snacks will be served starting at 5:15 p.m. Please come early to enjoy them so we can convene the meeting promptly at 5:30. Thank you!

I. 5:30 Meeting Convenes: Review Goals, Agenda Jim Reid, Facilitator

II. 5:35 Housekeeping Items Task Force

• Approve revised draft summary of 4 June 2015 meeting

III. 5:40 Review and Discuss Points of Potential Consensus Task Force

At the June 4th meeting, the Task Force brainstormed four alternatives, each with a different minimum wage as the ultimate goal.

• Can we reduce the choices to two?
At last week’s meeting there appeared to be consensus among Task Force members for phasing in over time the increase in the minimum wage so that all entities, no matter what size or sector, offer the same minimum wage by a date certain.

- Is this accurate?
- Can we narrow the timeframe for achieving the minimum wage goal to one or two choices?

At last week’s meeting, it appeared there was consensus to allow the minimum wage to rise next January 1st as it would under existing state law, and then institute the first increase under the Task Force’s recommendations on 1 July 2016.

- Is this accurate?

Depending on the timeframe(s) for achieving the minimum wage goal:

- What are the choices for increasing the minimum wage each year until we achieve the ultimate goal?
- Is there a consensus on a proposal?

Last week there seemed to be consensus among the Task Force members for automatically increasing the minimum wage annually after the minimum wage goal is achieved. It appeared the Task Force supported linking those increases to an index, such as the Consumer Price Index, and ensuring that Tacoma’s minimum wage remains higher than the state’s.

- Are these points accurate?
- What indexes might be appropriate for determining the automatic annual increase?

Last week there appeared to be an interest in periodically assessing the impacts of raising the minimum wage once the Task Force’s minimum wage goal is achieved.

- Is this accurate?
- How often should the assessment be conducted?
- Does the Task Force need to recommend how this assessment would be conducted and by whom, and what would happen depending on its findings?

6:45 Break

IV. 6:55 Discuss Additional Elements of the Alternatives

- Should there be a different timeframe for “large” and
“small” entities to reach the minimum wage goal? If so, why? If not, why not?

 Are there other choices that should be considered?
 Is there consensus on one or two pathways to achieve the minimum wage within the timeframe(s) the Task Force favors?
 Last week the Task Force brainstormed credits and exemptions. With the Task Force’s points of consensus and interests in mind, what is the thinking about them? Are they needed? Which ones might make the most sense? Why?

 Some Task Force members have mentioned offering incentives to get businesses to achieve the minimum wage even sooner than the timeline. Is there interest on the part of the Task Force in exploring this further?
 If so, what might be the incentives?

 Last week the Task Force briefly discussed enforcement. Most everyone seemed interested in keeping down the costs of compliance. Is that accurate? In light of our discussions tonight, what are the Task Force members’ impression about the kind of compliance program that would be needed?

 Are there other elements of a program we should discuss tonight?

V. 8:20 Next Steps

8:25 Adjourn

THE TASK FORCE’S NEXT MEETING IS:

Monday, 15 June 2015
5:30 – 8:25 p.m.
The Center for Urban Waters