

CITY OF TACOMA'S MINIMUM WAGE TASK FORCE

THE TASK FORCE'S SIXTH MEETING

Thursday, 22 June 2015 5:37 – 7:11 p.m.

The Center for Urban Waters

FINAL SUMMARY

OF THE MEETING'S KEY DISCUSSIONS, DECISIONS, AND AGREEMENTS

Approved by the Task Force on 25 June 2015.

In attendance: Task Force Members: Sarah Cherin, , Michelle Douglas, Dennis Farrow, Dr. Ali Modarres, Abranna Romero Rocha, David Strong, Robert Taylor, and Brenda Wiest; **City Staff** serving the Task Force: Andy Cherullo and Christina Watts; **Economic Consultants:** Doug Wills; **Facilitator:** Jim Reid

Task Force members who were absent: Kelly Chambers, Pastor Gregory Christopher, Odette D'Aniello, Liz Dunbar, Reggie Frederick, Eric Hahn, and Russ Heaton.

Facilitator Jim Reid called the Tacoma Minimum Wage Task Force's meeting to order at 5:37 p.m. PDT.

THE TASK FORCE'S DECISIONS AND AGREEMENTS

The two decisions of this meeting were:

1. The Task Force approved the summary of the key discussions, decisions, and agreements of its fifth meeting on 18 June 2015. The final summary will be posted on the Task Force's website to help keep the public informed about the Task Force's work.
2. A majority of the Task Force members who were present endorsed a minimum wage proposal offered by Michelle Douglas as a compromise and amended by the others.

SEVEN TASK FORCE MEMBERS ENDORSE MICHELLE DOUGLAS' "COMBO PROPOSAL"

Seven of the eight Task Force members in attendance tonight endorsed a minimum wage proposal offered by Michelle Douglas and amended by the others. Dennis Farrow indicated his support for the proposal offered by Russ Heaton last week that has as its goal \$12 per hour.

The "combo proposal" is as follows:

A. The “Combo Proposal”

GOALS:

1. Achieve a minimum hourly wage of at least \$15 for everyone working in Tacoma by 2024.
2. Raise the minimum hourly wage for employees working for local, national, or global companies in Tacoma with 150 or more employees to \$15 by 2020.

PROCESS AND TIMELINE:

Date	Hourly Minimum Wage: Organizations with 150 employees or more.	Hourly Minimum Wage: Organizations with 149 employees or fewer.
January 1, 2016	\$ 9.77 (estimated)	\$ 9.77 (estimated)
July 1, 2016	\$11.00	\$11.00
January 1, 2017	\$12.00	\$11.50
January 1, 2018	\$13.00	\$12.00
January 1, 2019	\$14.00	\$12.50
January 1, 2020	\$15.00	\$13.00
2020	ASSESSMENT: City of Tacoma conducts an assessment of the impacts of the recent rise in the minimum wage on: a) small businesses and non-profits; b) minimum wage/low wage workers; and c) the city’s economy in the context of Pierce County and the greater Puget Sound region.	
January 1, 2021	Previous Year + CPI increase *	\$13.50 (including CPI increase. If MHW is \$13.33 because of CPI, this program would raise it an additional \$0.17 to reach \$13.50)
2021	IMPLEMENT KEY FINDINGS: City of Tacoma and business, labor, and community partners review the assessment’s findings to determine strategies and goals to address them. Tacoma City Council adopts some as policies to strengthen small, local businesses and others as policies that are part of the City’s comprehensive campaign to reduce poverty.	
January 1, 2022	Previous Year + CPI Increase	\$14.00

January 1, 2023	Previous Year+ CPI increase	\$14.50
January 1, 2024	Previous Year+ CPI increase	\$15.00
January 1, 2025	Previous Year+ CPI increase	\$15.00 + CPI increase

2026-2030
 Sometime during these five years the City would adjust the minimum wage of employees of small businesses to achieve parity between the minimum hourly wages paid by small and large businesses.

** The State of Washington estimates the CPI will rise 2.4% annually.*

During the discussion of this proposed compromise, another idea emerged. Its goal would be to raise the minimum wage in Tacoma to \$13 by 2020. It would not distinguish between large and small businesses. To some Task Force members it sounded like that portion of Proposal A above that would apply to small businesses, except that once \$13 per hour is reached in 2020, the CPI would be used in subsequent years to determine the amount of the annual raise in the minimum wage.

The meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m. PDT.