

CITY OF TACOMA'S MINIMUM WAGE TASK FORCE

THE TASK FORCE'S SEVENTH MEETING

Thursday, 25 June 2015 5:40 – 7:02 p.m.

Tacoma Municipal Building

FINAL SUMMARY

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

Approved by the Task Force on 29 June 2015.

In attendance: Task Force Members: Sarah Cherin, Pastor Gregory Christopher, Odette D'Aniello, Michelle Douglas, Liz Dunbar, Dennis Farrow, Eric Hahn, Russ Heaton, Dr. Ali Modarres, Abranna Romero Rocha, David Strong, and Robert Taylor. **City Staff** serving the Task Force: Andy Cherullo and Jared Eyer. **Economic Consultant:** Doug Wills. **Facilitator:** Jim Reid

Task Force members who were absent: Kelly Chambers, Reggie Frederick, and Brenda Wiest.

Facilitator Jim Reid called the Tacoma Minimum Wage Task Force's meeting to order at 5:40 p.m. PDT.

THE TASK FORCE'S DECISIONS AND AGREEMENTS

The three decisions of this meeting were:

1. The Task Force approved the summary of the key discussions, decisions, and agreements of its meeting on 22 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. Eight Task Force members who were present officially endorsed minimum wage Proposal A. Those in favor: Sarah Cherin, Pastor Gregory Christopher, Michelle Douglas, Liz Dunbar, Ali Modarres, Abranna Romero Rocha, David Strong, and Robert Taylor.
3. Four Task Force members who were present officially endorsed minimum wage Proposal B. Those in favor: Odette D'Aniello, Dennis Farrow, Eric Hahn, and Russ Heaton.

ON BEHALF OF THE "BUSINESS CAUCUS," RUSS HEATON PROPOSES A PATH TO \$12 PER HOUR BY 2019

Speaking on behalf of five of his Task Force colleagues, Russ Heaton proposed a plan to raise the hourly minimum wage to \$12 by 2019. Russ urged the City Council to place this proposal on the November 2015 ballot to counter the Now15 initiative that will be on the ballot:

- \$10.25 per hour on January 1, 2016
- \$10.75 per hour on January 1, 2017
- \$11.25 per hour on January 1, 2018
- \$12.00 per hour on January 1, 2019

Starting January 1, 2020, the minimum wage will be adjusted annually per Washington State law (which uses the CPI-W index).

Four Task Force members who were present officially endorsed the above proposal: Odette D’Aniello, Dennis Farrow, Eric Hahn, and Russ. Two other Task Force members who were not present have signed a letter endorsing this proposal; they are Kelly Chambers and Reggie Frederick.

TASK FORCE MEMBERS AGREE TO SUBMIT TWO PROPOSALS TO THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Following a brief discussion of Russ’ proposal, facilitator Jim Reid polled the Task Force members regarding their support of Proposal A (which was labeled the “Combo Proposal” when Michelle Douglas proposed it on Monday, the 22nd) or Proposal B (the one Russ had just offered).

Eight Task Force members endorsed Proposal A, a two-pronged approach to reaching a \$15 per hour minimum wage by 2024, and will recommend to the Mayor and Council that this option should be put on the November ballot as the alternative to 15Now. They were: Sarah Cherin, Pastor Gregory Christopher, Liz Dunbar, Michelle Douglas, Ali Modarres, Abranna Romero Rocha, David Strong, and Robert Taylor. In addition, Brenda Wiest endorsed the proposal on 22 June.

And, as was stated above, the four Task Force members of the “business caucus” who were present endorsed Proposal B. And Reggie and Kelly, while not present, signed a letter endorsing it.

Those in favor of Proposal A quickly dispensed with some remaining issues, including: a) franchises; b) parity between large and small businesses (i.e., by what year the minimum wage will be the same for employees of businesses with 149 employees or less [small businesses] and the employees of businesses with 150 or more employees [large businesses]; and c) whether or not to credit businesses that provide training, internships, work study credits to employees .

After the Task Force spoke with Dr. Doug Wills about the Consumer Price Index (CPI), Dr. Modarres volunteered to draft language that would apply to either proposal and for Task Force members to recommend to the City regarding what index the City should use to automatically raise the minimum wage each year.

TASK FORCE BRIEFLY REVIEWS FIRST DRAFT OF REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE CITY COUNCIL

The Task Force members briefly reviewed the first draft of the report and recommendations Jim Reid had written for them to provide to the Mayor and City Council. Following a quick conversation, the Task

Force and Jim outlined the steps to finalizing the report and submitting it to the Council. These are the next steps:

- Task Force members will send to Jim their suggested edits by 6 p.m. Friday, the 26th. This will include language from Ali regarding the use of the CPI or another appropriate index.
- The endorsement letters that Task Force members are writing in support of each proposal will be sent to Jim by 5 p.m. on Saturday, the 27th. Those endorsing Proposal A will address franchises, parity, and state requirements pertaining to hiring youth, trainees, work study students, etc.
- Jared Eyer and Christina Watts will produce the side-by-side matrix and send it to Jim by COB Friday so that it can be inserted into the Task Force's report.
- Jim will revise the draft report with the items above and send Edition 3 to everyone on Sunday at approximately noon.
- At the Monday, 29 June Task Force meeting, the members will review it once more for any grammatical mistakes and typos.
- It will then be finalized and presented to the Mayor and City Council during their study session on Tuesday, 30 June. Thus, the Task Force will have met the deadline originally given them by the elected officials.

The meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m. PDT.