

Communication from Public

Name:

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Comments for Public Posting: The LA Black Work Center thanks Director Reamer and BCA staff, as well as Deputy City Attorney Dania Minassian for their thoughtful reports in response to Councilmember McOsker's Motion (CF 23-0287). The LA Black Worker Center recognizes that these reports are the beginning of several important steps to improve labor standards enforcement and addressing wage theft, discrimination, retaliation, and other labor code violations. The LA Black Worker Center stands alongside LAWCN and all of our worker center partners in respectfully asking for the continued collaboration of Councilmembers, BCA, the City Attorney and the entire City family to implement recommendations and successfully:

1. Reimagine and restructure OWS to focus on strategic enforcement, including meal and rest breaks, overtime, personal liability, successor liability, and upstream liability, in partnership with LAWCN, whose community-based worker organizations primarily serve LA's most vulnerable, low-wage workers whom are most "At-Risk" of experiencing labor violations and being unhoused (i.e. Black folks, immigrants, indigenous folks, women, LGBTQIA+);
2. Focus on outreach and education in partnership with LAWCN and its community nonprofit members, which serve as trusted messengers, provide language access and legal support, and specialize in efficiently serving LA's most vulnerable workers (e.g. Black workers, immigrant workers, indigenous workers, women, LGBTQIA+ workers, low-wage workers whom are most "At-Risk" of experiencing labor violations and being unhoused) by concentration of industries and communities of interest;
3. Partner with LAWCN members to:
 - a. Conduct efficient outreach and engagement of vulnerable workers as part of the City's implementation of efficient, strategic enforcement;
 - b. Support vulnerable workers before, during, and after the process of filing a claim with OWS, including by providing language access, legal support, and/or case management services; and
 - c. Provide advisory policy and administrative recommendations through a formal process that facilitates regular evaluation and feedback of the ongoing implementation of efficient, strategic enforcement under a reimagined OWS and with the support of the City Attorney. Black workers experience wage theft at an incredible rate, and that's when Black folks can find employment. It is

critical that we strengthen protections for workers so that we can begin the process of making the workplace a sustainable environment for Black workers and all marginalized workers.