

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Maria Salinas

**Date Submitted:** 03/02/2026 09:30 AM

**Council File No:** 23-0932

**Comments for Public Posting:** Dear Chair McOsker and Members of the Personnel Committee, On behalf of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, the largest business organization in the Los Angeles region, we express our concerns regarding the proposed expansion of authority for the Office of Wage Standards (OWS). The delegation of enforcement functions to community-based organizations raises substantial risks to worker privacy and the confidentiality of sensitive employee and employer information, potentially exposing businesses to legal liability. According to the CLA report, implementation of the recommended measures is projected to cost approximately \$2.8 million over a nine-month period. Given the City's current budgetary constraints and the reduction of funding in other critical programs, we are concerned about committing additional resources to potentially duplicative enforcement initiatives rather than directing funds toward essential services and economic recovery efforts. Specifically, with the passage of state bills that have already increased enforcement powers at the state level: •SB 648 (Smallwood-Cuevas): Effective Jan. 2026, strengthens the California Labor Commissioner's authority to investigate, issue citation, and file civil actions against employers for tip and gratuity violations. •SB 261 (Wahab): Effective Jan. 2026, expands state enforcement on unpaid wage claims, increases penalties for employers who fail to comply after 180 days, and removes public posting requirements for wage orders. With the upcoming Global Games, it is particularly important that small businesses, specifically restaurants and retail establishments, have the resources and support necessary to meet increased demand, ensure smooth operations, and capitalize on this economic opportunity. Targeted, duplicative enforcement pressures on these sectors at this critical time could hinder their recovery, limit job creation, and impede broader economic growth, undermining the City's recovery objectives. The Chamber strongly urges the Committee to reconsider this proposal and seek a balanced approach that safeguards worker protections while fostering a stable and competitive business environment. If you have any questions or wish to discuss this matter further, please reach out to Jackie Iniguez, Policy Manager, at [jiniguez@lachamber.com](mailto:jiniguez@lachamber.com). Sincerely, Maria S. Salinas, President & CEO Carlos Singer,

Chief Policy Officer

March 2, 2026

The Honorable Tim McOsker  
Chair, Personnel & Hiring Committee  
Los Angeles City Council  
200 N. Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**Subject: Concerns Regarding the Proposed Expansion of OWS Authority** ([CF: 23-0932](#))

Dear Chair McOsker and Members of the Personnel Committee,

On behalf of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, the largest business organization in the Los Angeles region, we express our concerns regarding the proposed expansion of authority for the Office of Wage Standards (OWS).

The delegation of enforcement functions to community-based organizations raises substantial risks to worker privacy and the confidentiality of sensitive employee and employer information, potentially exposing businesses to legal liability. According to the CLA report, implementation of the recommended measures is projected to cost approximately \$2.8 million over a nine-month period. Given the City's current budgetary constraints and the reduction of funding in other critical programs, we are concerned about committing additional resources to potentially duplicative enforcement initiatives rather than directing funds toward essential services and economic recovery efforts. Specifically, with the passage of state bills that have already increased enforcement powers at the state level:

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The Chamber strongly urges the Committee to reconsider this proposal and seek a balanced approach that safeguards worker protections while fostering a stable and competitive business environment. If you have any questions or wish to discuss this matter further, please reach out to Jackie Iniguez, Policy Manager, at [jiniguez@lachamber.com](mailto:jiniguez@lachamber.com).

Sincerely,



Maria S. Salinas  
President & CEO



Carlos Singer  
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