



December 2, 2025

**Re: Council File No. 23-0932 Assignment No. 23-10-0533 Enforcement of Workplace Violations**

Dear Members of the Committee,

We write in strong support of fully funding and adopting the recommendations outlined in the recent Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA) report on the LA City Office of Wage Standards (OWS).

As you know, OWS plays a critical role in enforcing workplace protections for low-wage and immigrant workers across our city. Without strong enforcement, wage theft and workplace exploitation continue to undermine the wellbeing of workers, families, and entire communities. The CLA report provides a clear path forward to strengthen enforcement and accountability.

We especially urge your support for:

- Prioritization of low-wage worker claims to ensure the most vulnerable workers are not left behind
- Subpoena authority to compel employer compliance and level the playing field for honest businesses
- Strategic enforcement in industries with the highest rates of violations
- Co-enforcement partnerships with trusted community-based organizations that workers already turn to for support

In addition, we encourage adoption of complementary reforms that LAWCN has proposed, including:

- Amending the Los Angeles Municipal Code to expand OWS authority to enforce overtime, meal and rest break, and late pay violations, and to hold individual business owners personally liable for wage theft
- Establishing a complaint prioritization index and a public repository of cases, modeled on best practices in other cities, to improve transparency and efficiency
- Strengthening information-sharing and joint enforcement with community organizations, as well as exploring coordination with Los Angeles County on joint investigations, shared penalties, and investigator training

Why this matters now is clear. With the 2026 World Cup and 2028 Olympics approaching, Los Angeles faces global attention and an influx of temporary jobs in industries already prone to exploitation. Coupled with heightened federal enforcement against immigrant

communities, stronger local protections are essential to prevent abuse and retaliation.

Fully funding these measures will not only safeguard workers' rights but also generate significant return on investment for the City: recovered penalties can support enforcement, while ensuring workers are paid fairly will increase disposable income, spur local spending, and strengthen our economy. These reforms benefit not only low-wage and immigrant workers, but all Angelenos and honest employers committed to fair competition.

We respectfully ask that you vote to support the CLA's recommendations and the expanded reforms when they are heard before the Economic Development and Jobs Committee on December 2, and as they move forward to full Council consideration.

Thank you for your leadership and your commitment to the working people of Los Angeles.

Sincerely,  
Armando Gudino  
Executive Director, Los Angeles Worker Center Network

**Los Angeles Worker Center Network Members:**

CLEAN Carwash Worker Center  
Garment Worker Center  
Koreatown Immigrant Workers Alliance  
Los Angeles Black Worker Center  
Pilipino Workers Center  
Warehouse Worker Resource Center  
UCLA Labor Center  
Bet Tzedek Legal Services

**Allied Community Groups:**

Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)  
Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice (CLUE Justice)  
Immigrants Are Los Angeles  
Instituto de Educacion Popular del Sur de California (IDEPSCA)  
Long Beach Forward  
Mixteco/Indigena Community Organizing Project (MICOP)  
Pomona Economic Opportunity Center  
Strategic Actions for a Just Economy (SAJE)  
Thai Community Development Center (Thai CDC)  
Workers United, Western States Regional Joint Board