

Communication from Public

Name: Nick Stewart-Bloch
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Council File No: 25-1466
Comments for Public Posting: Please see the attached coalition letter.



Dear City Council President Marqueece Harris-Dawson,

As members of the Tourism Workers Rising Coalition, we are outraged to hear that you submitted a motion to delay wages and healthcare for hotel and airport workers and exclude entire groups of workers only two months after this policy's implementation.

It is disheartening that anyone would propose to take money out of vulnerable workers' pockets and delay their access to family health care right before the holidays.

Perhaps more troubling, this motion is a clear capitulation to extortion. The same corporations - Delta, United, and American Hotel & Lodging Association - that spent nearly \$3 million on a failed referendum bid to delay the Olympic Wage are now cynically wielding a business tax repeal measure as leverage to coerce the City to cut the Olympic Wage or else face a decimated budget. To give in to this absurd corporate demand not only hurts tourism workers and their families; it sets a dangerous precedent that undermines the integrity of the legislative process and jeopardizes any future gains for our communities.

As we communicated to City Council and Mayor Bass in October, we will not be bullied into abandoning tourism workers at a time when LA is poised to host the world's largest mega-events. Neither should our City leadership. To side with billionaire corporations is a betrayal of your constituents, of tourism workers, of our coalition, and of the tens of thousands of Angelenos who made it clear this summer that they wanted to preserve the Olympic Wage.

As you know, more tourism workers live in your council district than any other, and will especially suffer from a weakened policy. So will the broader LA economy. Last December, BEAR economist David Roland-Holst testified that this policy was a "potent catalyst for regional growth" with the benefits being "about three times the costs," amounting to \$1.2 billion in new income and 12,000 new jobs by 2028. He was also clear that "if you defer the cost....you defer the benefits too, to the community, to the workers."

Our coalition of over 500 labor, faith-based and community organizations, neighborhood councils, and small businesses has stood side by side with workers for nearly three years to ensure they are healthy and housed. We will continue to show up in solidarity with them and stand at the ready should this motion move forward.

We hope that will not be necessary. We urge you to show strength in leadership, preserve the integrity of our legislative process, and withdraw the motion immediately.

Sincerely,

