

Date: September 23, 2022

To: Thomas B. Modica, City Manager 

From: Monique De La Garza, City Clerk 

For: Mayor and Members of the City Council

Subject: **Referendum Against Healthcare Worker Minimum Wage Ordinance**

The City of Long Beach is in receipt of the referendum that was filed with the Office of the City Clerk on September 21, 2022, against the City's adopted Healthcare Worker Minimum Wage Ordinance (Ordinance 22-0022).

As a result of this filing, Ordinance 22-0022, which was adopted by the Long Beach City Council on August 16, 2022, is suspended. The Office of the City Clerk reviewed the petition to ensure it meets all legal requirements, including determining if it contains the required minimum number of voter signatures of 26,862. Pursuant to City Election Code Section 9237, the number of signatures reflects 10% of total registered voters residing in the City of Long Beach. The City Clerk has determined that the number of signatures for the referendum is sufficient for the referendum to be sent to the Los Angeles County Registrar Recorder/County Clerk to conduct a full count and verification of the signatures, which must be completed within 30 business days from the date of the referendum filing.

If it is determined by the Los Angeles County Registrar Recorder/County Clerk that the referendum does not contain the sufficient number of signatures, the County Registrar -- will issue a certificate of insufficiency and Ordinance 22-0022 will take effect upon the date of the certificate. If it is determined that the referendum contains the requisite number of signatures, the County Registrar will issue a certificate of sufficiency and Ordinance 22-0022 shall remain suspended. The Long Beach City Council will then consider during a forthcoming City Council meeting to either (1) repeal Ordinance 22-0022 in its entirety or (2) submit it for voter consideration during the next Statewide election on March 5, 2024 or at a special election ordered by the Council. The deadline for voter consideration during the November 8, 2022 election has already passed.

The City's Healthcare Worker Minimum Wage Ordinance was set to take effect on September 26, 2022, at 12:01 a.m., which would have required certain healthcare facilities and physician groups identified in Section 5.96.020 of the Ordinance to increase the wages of covered workers to a \$25/hour minimum. The recommendation to increase the local healthcare worker minimum wage was initially proposed by a voter-initiated petition. In June 2022, the City Council requested an economic impact study be conducted and, after review of the study, unanimously voted to adopt it as a City Ordinance during the August 16, 2022 meeting.

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If you have any questions regarding this matter, please call Monique De La Garza at (562) 570-6101.

CC: CHARLES PARKIN, CITY ATTORNEY
DOUGLAS P. HAUBERT, CITY PROSECUTOR
LAURA L. DOUD, CITY AUDITOR
LINDA F. TATUM, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER
TERESA CHANDLER, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER
KATY NOMURA, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER
APRIL WALKER, ADMINISTRATIVE DEPUTY CITY MANAGER
KEVIN LEE, CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER
MONIQUE DE LA GARZA, CITY CLERK
DEPARTMENT HEADS