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Council File: 14-1371-S13

(Today's Date)

**North Hollywood Northeast Neighborhood Council** is in full support of the Tourism Workers Rising motion (Council File: 14-1371-S13) introduced in April to amend the Los Angeles Living Wage Ordinance and the Los Angeles Hotel Worker Minimum Wage Ordinance requiring \$25/hr now & \$30/hr by 2028, quality health care, and worker protections, as a matter of economic justice, housing justice, and public safety.

The tourism industry is rebounding beyond pre-pandemic levels and infrastructure investments are assuring future growth as Los Angeles prepares to host the 2026 World Cup and the 2028 Olympics; in 2022, the U.S. hotel industry reported average daily rate (ADR) and revenue per available room (RevPAR) that were the highest for any year on record, while LAX is investing \$6 billion in an expansion and LA is #1 in the nation for new hotel rooms.

Thousands of tourism workers and their families were among the hardest hit during the pandemic, yet many now lack quality health insurance, as the health benefits requirement in the Los Angeles Living Wage Ordinance (LWO) has not kept up with the rising costs of family health insurance coverage according to an April 2022 report presented by the Los Angeles City Administrative Officer in compliance with the LWO.

It is unacceptable that many workers at LAX and in hotels are struggling to keep a roof over their heads and support their families, all while being the backbone of a major economic engine in Los Angeles. The workers that keep LA's tourism industry functioning, safe, and profitable – including hotel housekeepers, LAX janitors and security guards, airplane cabin cleaners, airline catering workers, airline passenger service workers, LAX restaurant and retail workers – are primarily from BIPOC and immigrant communities. Tourism workers are disproportionately rent-burdened and are facing housing insecurity as housing costs in Los Angeles rise, meaning that at the current living wage levels an LAX or hotel worker would have to work 14 hours a day to afford to rent a two-bedroom apartment.

The proposed amendment to the living wage ordinance would help prevent displacement of our community members and ensure over 36,000 Angelenos are healthy and housed.