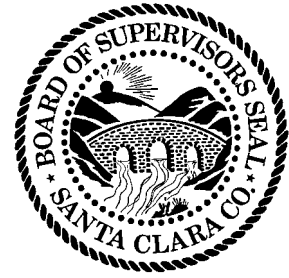


COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA
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SUSAN ELLENBERG
SUPERVISOR, DISTRICT FOUR

February 2, 2021

The Honorable Mayor and City Council
San Jose City Hall
200 E. Santa Clara Street
San Jose, CA 95113

RE: SUPPORT – City of San Jose Hero Pay Urgency Ordinance

Dear Mayor Liccardo and members of the San Jose City Council:

I am writing in strong support of item 3.4 “Hazard Pay for Retail Food Workers” on today’s San Jose City Council Agenda to direct the City Attorney to draft an urgency ordinance requiring hazard pay for retail food workers which would guarantee hazard pay of an additional five dollars an hour to be commenced immediately upon Council approval.

At the last Board of Supervisors meeting, my colleague, Supervisor Cindy Chavez and I introduced a similar measure to our County Administration relating to an ordinance for Hero Pay in Santa Clara County. We are pleased to announce that the referral passed 4-0-1.

Since the onset of the shelter-in-place order, our area and our nation saw daily, in action, a new group of heroes. In addition to the first responders and health providers who have stood on the front lines of this pandemic, so too have the restaurant workers, grocery store employees, pharmaceutical aides, and others who have gone to work every single day – truly in the line of fire of an invisible enemy – to keep our economy and our world functioning while so many of the rest of us, including elected officials, stayed largely sheltered in place in safety.

As citizens, we should – and most have – say thank you to these heroes individually as we encounter them in our communities. As leaders, we should say thank you today by passing this recommendation for an urgency ordinance to recognize their heightened risk with increased pay.

The companies that employ these heroes have remained open; many have not only survived but have thrived and grown during this pandemic as other, smaller competitors have been shuttered. We don’t begrudge them that or attack them for it – they are being responsive to the environment they are in. But what we can do – what we should do – is ensure that this growth is shared with the heroes they employ.

I applaud my Board for going further than Los Angeles did – recommending this action occur for the next 180 days as opposed to the next 120. I believe that the City of San Jose can join us in doing what is best for the working families of our County, together and urge my colleagues on the San Jose City Council to do the same. And, publicly, to all those out there working right now in consumer facing industries, let me say: thank you!

Thank you all for everything you do to support the children and families of Santa Clara County.

Sincerely,



Supervisor Susan Ellenberg
Santa Clara County, District 4