

Re: Hazard pay

Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

Wed 1/27/2021 8:34 AM

To: Gregory, Barbara <Barbara.Gregory@sanjoseca.gov>

Cc: Rules and Open Government Committee Agendas <rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov>

Good Morning Barb,

Thank you!

### Agenda Desk

City of San José | Office of the City Clerk  
200 East Santa Clara St. – Tower 14th Fl.  
San José, CA 95113-1905  
Phone 408.535.1275 | Fax 408.292.6207  
[agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov)

Live updates of City Council Meetings can be found on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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**From:** Gregory, Barbara <Barbara.Gregory@sanjoseca.gov>

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 27, 2021 6:55 AM

**To:** Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

**Subject:** Fw: Hazard pay

Good Morning

Was something on the agenda about this? If not I just file it

Thank You,

*Barb Gregory*



**Analyst II**

**Office of the City Clerk**

**200 E Santa Clara St FL T-14**

**San Jose, C-A 95112**

**408-535-1272 Fax: 408-292-6207**

**e-mail: [barbara.gregory@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:barbara.gregory@sanjoseca.gov)**

**[How is our service? Please take our short survey.](#)**

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**From:** Walter Lazo [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 27, 2021 12:07 AM

**To:** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

**Subject:** Hazard pay

[External Email]

As we are working during this pandemic, we are not only exposing ourselves we are also exposing our family members to the possibility of getting this deadly virus. It is not unreasonable to expect our employers to step up and compensate us accordingly. Hazard pay should be mandatory not optional.

Connie Thirionet

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## Re: hazard pay for essential workers

Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

Wed 1/27/2021 11:09 AM

To: Gregory, Barbara <Barbara.Gregory@sanjoseca.gov>

Cc: Rules and Open Government Committee Agendas <rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov>

Thank you!

### Agenda Desk

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**From:** Gregory, Barbara <Barbara.Gregory@sanjoseca.gov>

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 27, 2021 11:05 AM

**To:** Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

**Subject:** Fw: hazard pay for essential workers

Hi

I think this is for you

Thank You,

*Barb Gregory*



**Analyst II**

**Office of the City Clerk**

**200 E Santa Clara St FL T-14**

**San Jose, C-A 95112**

**408-535-1272 Fax: 408-292-6207**

**e-mail: [barbara.gregory@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:barbara.gregory@sanjoseca.gov)**

**How is our service? [Please take our short survey.](#)**

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**From:** Erik Larsen [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 27, 2021 9:00 AM

**To:** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

**Subject:** hazard pay for essential workers

[External Email]

Dear City Council:

In March, I was out of work. I applied for unemployment. It took forever to get any response. COVID was just starting to hit the US. Stores and businesses were closing. I was fearful that I wouldn't be able to find work. I couldn't wait and so I snapped up the opportunity to work at Lucky's grocery store. They were hiring.

Working 8 hour days lifting heavy milk crates, twisting to put cans on shelves, interacting with customers, pushing carts, cleaning out the bloody butcher block, bending down on my knees to wipe up a broken ketchup jar, and more..... it's tough work. And for this 53-year body, there hasn't been a day where I don't come home aching tired.

Over the past months, COVID-19, wearing a mask all day long was just something that I had to get used to. Many customers have bitterly complained about it, though. Some have shouted at me other co-workers and refused to comply with County restrictions. As the 2020 elections rolled along, these confrontations continued. Trump and his campaign was partially fueling this stuff. I just shrugged at it all and kept my nose down and just did my work.

COVID became a real thing in my life when after the Christmas holidays, which were an extremely busy time in the store, I started seeing co-workers disappear. Where did Jen go? What happened to James? Did Carlos get sick? No one was saying anything. Management was silent. Last week Ashlyn came to work, finally. She told me it was COVID. She got it bad. Headache, sever fever, loss of smell and taste, body aches, and more.

I realized this was no joke. And certainly, it was not a fake new hoax. COVID was in my work place. My co-workers got it and were quarantined!

I don't take for granted the daily health check, anymore. And all the precautions we take to distance, wash hands, wear gloves, sanitize shopping carts, and wipe down surfaces are all very important to protect my health and the health of my co-workers, and to protect the public. I am starting to double mask after listening to a Dr Fauci interview yesterday.

Never have I thought of my work as anything special. In fact, I have kinda felt ashamed for having to take a grocery worker job. It pays \$15 an hour. It's a wage that is not sustainable. I'm glad my wife and son have steady jobs to keep our household afloat. But I have realized that my job is to help feed people. The hundreds of people coming into the store, especially around the holidays, really drove that point home to me. I realized that my health and the health of my co-workers impacts a lot of others. Large stores like Lucky's are critical in the food supply chain. My small task of bagging groceries, is a really big thing.

So my question to you, City Council members is this..... what is my labor worth?

I put myself in harms way. I am asked to mask up and be in an environment where exposure is a possibility. It's really only a matter time that I'm exposed to COVID. I work in an environment that is closed in. I take pride in the fact that I am an essential worker. Do I deserve more while big corporations are making money hand over fist on the back of my labor? Yes, I do.

I urge you to support the City of San Jose ordinance to pay essential workers the extra \$5 for our labor, and for my labor.

Sincerely,

Erik Larsen  


[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

District 6 resident

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