



TO: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
FROM: Celia Holderman, Executive Assistant
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: Resolution – Appointing individuals to the Tacoma Minimum Wage Taskforce; increasing members from 13 to 15; and, adding two alternates – May 12, 2105
DATE: May 12, 2015

SUMMARY:

A resolution appointing individuals to the Tacoma Minimum Wage Task Force; increasing the number of members from 13 members to 15 members; and, adding two alternates.

COUNCIL SPONSORS:

Mayor Marilyn Strickland

STRATEGIC POLICY PRIORITY:

The requested Resolution aligns with the City Council’s Strategic Policy Priority to *Foster a vibrant and diverse economy with good jobs for all Tacoma residents.*

BACKGROUND:

On May 4, 2015, Mayor Strickland received a letter from the Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber requesting the Mayor convene a group capable of developing an alternative to the \$15 an hour Minimum Wage Initiative that all of Tacoma’s voters could get behind. The Chamber acknowledged the need to address the minimum wage issue here in Tacoma; however, they believed the 15 Now proposed initiative is too extreme because it creates the highest minimum wage in the state and nation. Although Seattle has adopted a higher minimum wage, their economy is stronger than the Tacoma economy and the cost of living is much higher. Yet, even in Seattle, where the median household income is 30% higher than in Tacoma, the Seattle City Council opted to increase its minimum wage in phases over seven years. Currently, the \$11 an hour minimum wage rate effective in Seattle on January 1, 2016, is \$4 an hour less than what is being proposed in Tacoma.

During the May 5, 2015 Study Session, the Mayor discussed the Chamber’s request for the City to create a group to convene and discuss alternatives. At the May 5, 2015 City Council meeting, Resolution No. 39187 was adopted creating the 13-member Task Force. Mayor has received recommended nominees from the City Council Members and is recommending an increase from a 13-member to a 15-member Task Force, add two alternates, and appoint the nominees listed in Exhibit “A”.

ISSUE:

The Minimum Wage Task Force has been created through adopted Resolution No. 39187. Increasing the number of members to 15 and adding two alternates will provide good representation for discussing the issue and potential alternatives. Appointing the nominees is timely so the group can begin their discussions given the short timeframe to submit a report to the City Council by June 30, 2015.

ALTERNATIVES:

The Council could choose to not support the requested resolution.

RECOMMENDATION:

The recommendation is that the Council approves the resolution increasing the member number to 15, adding two alternates, and appointing individuals to the Tacoma Minimum Wage Task Force.



FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact.