

January 7, 2025

Honorable Mayor and City Council  
City of Long Beach  
California

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Recommendation to receive a presentation to evaluate options for modernizing existing wage rates for Long Beach Airport and Long Beach Convention Center concession workers and request City Attorney to prepare an ordinance amending Long Beach Municipal Code, Chapter 16.60, Payment of Living Wage to Workers at the Airport and the Long Beach Convention Center, based on direction from the City Council. (Districts 1, 4, 5)

**DISCUSSION**

On July 16, 2024, Councilmembers Suely Saro, Mary Zendejas, and Dr. Joni Ricks-Oddie, brought forth an item to City Council requesting the City Manager evaluate options to modernize the existing wage rates as outlined in Long Beach Municipal Code Chapter 16.60 (LBMC Chapter 16.60), Payment of Living Wage to Workers at the Airport and the Long Beach Convention Center. The current minimum wage under LBMC Chapter 16.60 is \$17.97, and with the recent approval of Measure RW by Long Beach voters during the March 2024 primary elections, the initial minimum wage rate for hotel workers is \$23 per hour.

This issue was evaluated following Council direction, and on November 1, 2024, the Departments of Economic Development and Long Beach Airport released a Memorandum titled "Follow-Up Regarding Market Pay Adjustment for Airport and Convention Center Workers Item" (Attachment). The Memorandum describes the operations at Airport and Convention Center, past wage actions and current bargaining agreements, general benefits and risks, and identifies three scenarios for amending wage rates for Long Beach Convention Center and Airport concession workers and associated risks for each facility.

This item is brought forth to provide a forum for the City Council to discuss and consider the information provided in the Memorandum and provide further direction on potential amendments to LBMC Chapter 16.60.

This matter was reviewed by Deputy City Attorney Marsha Yasuda and Budget Management Officer Nader Kaamoush on December 17, 2024.

**TIMING CONSIDERATIONS**

City Council action is requested on January 7, 2025, in order to respond to the original Council request in a timely manner.

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FISCAL IMPACT

This recommendation is to provide a presentation outlining options for City Council to consider to modernize existing wages for concession workers at the Long Beach Convention Center and Airport. Depending on City Council direction to amend the wages at the Convention Center and Airport, there could be additional fiscal impacts based on the options outlined in the Memorandum. In the current fiscal year, FY 25, any additional cost to the Convention Center will likely have a direct impact on the City, as the Center is projecting an operating deficit which is the responsibility of the City, currently being back by the Tidelands Operating Fund Group. Depending on the details of a final City Council recommendation there may be some staffing impact beyond the normal budgeted scope of duties. Local labor impacts, consistent with the benefits and risks noted in this report, will likely result from this recommendation.

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Approve recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,



Bo Martinez  
Director  
Economic Development

APPROVED:



THOMAS B. MODICA  
CITY MANAGER



Cynthia Guidry  
Director  
Long Beach Airport

ATTACHMENT