

Item #1

San Mateo County **Central Labor Council**



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**Remarks to the South San Francisco City Council / Study Session on Raising the Minimum Wage
Submitted by Rayna Lehman, Community Services Director, San Mateo County Central Labor
Council /Labor Liaison to United Way Bay Area**

On behalf of the San Mateo Central Labor Council and the 11,342 union members who call South San Francisco home, we urge the City Council to adopt a minimum wage ordinance of \$15 by January 2020 for all employers.

South San Francisco will join four cities and the County and many cities in the region – who have passed Minimum Wage Ordinances. Menlo Park is in the process.

Fully a quarter of all SSF households earn under \$50,000 per year.

About 11% of all households in the city earn below the federal poverty level of \$25,000 per year for a family of 4. (American Fact Finder)

SSF currently enjoys the very low unemployment rate of 2.5% (EDD LMI)

But about 36% of the SSF workforce is concentrated in the lower wage sectors including hospitality, food service, retail and healthcare. (DataUSA)

This modest boost in pay will make a difference.

Average rents in SSF are high enough that even \$15 an hour is not enough.

A family of 4 needs to earn the equivalent of four \$15 an hour jobs to be self-sufficient and healthy in San Mateo County (Family Needs Calculator)

The law provides for your city's tipped workers to keep their tips.

The law also recognizes that tips help workers. And leans against schemes that diminish the value of employee tips or wages. (CA Labor code 351)

Too many hard-working families in South San Francisco face poverty and insecurity. You have the opportunity to invest in the workforce and improve the quality of life for the low wage workers you represent.

\$15 an hour is insufficient, but it is a start.

We know that a local minimum wage increase has a multiplier effect, increasing the money spent at local businesses and boosting the economy.

We support \$15 by January 2020 with subsequent annual Consumer Price Index raises.

We all have a vested interest in attracting and retaining a quality workforce and there is great urgency to raise the minimum wage in South San Francisco right now.