

## \$15/hr, Enforcement, Sick Days: Celebrate and Let's Keep Going! CLUENews

Rabbi Jonathan Klein, CLUE <jklein@cluejustice.org>  
To: erhea@cluel.org

Fri, Jul 14, 2017 at 4:08 PM



Dear Elizabeth,

Forty-eight years to the day that Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr was assassinated, I had the honor of [watching Governor Brown sign SB 3 \(Leno\), the Statewide Minimum Wage increase](#). This was the culmination of a long journey of extraordinary organizing and grassroots commitment to demanding that all people can live what we know is the true American Dream: An honest day's work for an honest day's pay. Let's summarize the key moments and many victories over the past few years (I'm sure I'm missing some; it's amazing how much work this was, with extraordinary colleagues all over the County!):

- **November, 2012: Long Beach passes Measure N.** Voters overwhelmingly (64% in favor) demanded \$13/hr for all hospitality workers in hotels of 100 rooms or more, 5 paid sick days. Sponsored by UNITE-HERE Local 11.
- **Labor Day, 2014: LA City Mayor Eric Garcetti announces \$13.25/hr. by 2017 for all.** #RaiseTheWageLA. Community groups, the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, LA's [Fight for \\$15](#), and four City Council Members formed #LARaiseTheWage coalition to push for \$15, with enforcement and additional sick days.
- **September, 2014: LA City's "Raise LA" passes.** Los Angeles City Council voted 12-3 to raise salaries for hospitality workers in hotels of 150 rooms or more \$15.37/hr by 2016, with 5 paid sick days.
- **May, 2015: LA City raises wages to \$15 by 2020.** Los Angeles City Council voted 14-1 to raise wages for all. Businesses of 25 or less get one extra year for the increase, plus subsequent cost of living increases indexed with inflation.
- **May: LA City passes wage enforcement.** All the provisions for enforcing the minimum wage law, including liens and other penalties for businesses that do not comply with the law.
- **July, 2015: LA County raises wages to \$15 by 2020.** Los Angeles Board of Supervisors voted 3-2 to raise wages for workers in unincorporated Los Angeles County. In the terms of the increase were virtually identical to those in Los Angeles City earlier.
- **January 1, 2016: California minimum wage increases from \$9/hr to \$10/hr.**
- **January, 2016: The "Raise California's Wage and Paid Sick Days Act of 2016" is given title and summary by CA Attorney General.** Would have increased wages for all workers to \$15 by 2020, with sick days. Sponsored by SEIU-California.
- **January, 2016: Long Beach raises wages to \$15 by 2021.** Long Beach City Council voted 6-2 to raise wages for all. Terms almost the same, with a pause for a study in 2019, continuing to \$15 in 2021. Some exemptions/training wage. Nonprofits benefit from extra year as well.
- **January, 2016: Santa Monica raises wages to \$15 by 2020.** Santa Monica City Council voted 6-0 with one abstention to raise wages for all. Includes a union preemption, allowing workers greater flexibility to negotiate collective bargaining contracts, and 5 to 9 paid sick days as well (number based on size of business). Also included "training wage" and made extra year available to nonprofits, and to hotels under certain criteria.
- **February, 2016: Pasadena raises wage to \$15 by 2020.** Pasadena City Council voted 7-0 with one abstention to raise wages for all. Similar to Long Beach, Pasadena will pause in 2019 for a study.
- **March, 2016: The California Fair Wage Act of 1016 Qualifies for November Ballot.** Would have increased wages for most workers to \$15 by 2021. Sponsored by SEIU-United Healthcare Workers West.
- **March, 2016: West Hollywood raises wage to \$12 in 2019.** West Hollywood City Council voted 3-2 to raise wages for all. As with every other citywide policy, an extra year for businesses of 25 or less employees.
- **April, 2016: CALIFORNIA RAISES WAGES TO \$15 BY 2022!** All workers, all over the state!

There is still so much more work to do:

- This coming Tuesday (4/12), Los Angeles County will consider enforcement provisions during the Board of Supervisors meeting in the morning.
- That same day, at 1:30, Los Angeles City's Economic Development Committee will consider adding paid sick days to the lives of Los Angeles working people, to exceed the three already provided by the state.
- On Monday, April 11th, at 7pm at Temple Sinai of Glendale, CLUE is hosting a [Glendale Living Wage Forum](#), featuring Glendale Council Member Laura Friedman as moderator. I will be on the panel, joined by [Dan Flaming](#) of the Economic Roundtable, [Melinda Clark](#) of the Montrose Verdugo Chamber of Commerce, a small business owner, and a worker, among other possible guests.
- A small group of us are working on ensuring that Beverly Hills moves forward with a more aggressive increase in minimum wage, to at least parallel surrounding Los Angeles City and County, as well as Glendale. We are urging [Mayor John Mirisch](#) and the City to pass an ordinance that gets workers to \$15 by 2020, not left behind. [Send him an email to encourage him to put it on the agenda immediately!](#)
- It would be ideal for West Hollywood to join the rest of the cities that have a pathway to \$15 that beats California's pace. [Let me know if you want to continue to work on this with me.](#)

Friends, there is so much more to write, but it's daunting to just capture it! **The main point: These increases have come because of a lot of hard work by CLUE organizers, CLUE religious leaders in committees, and seemingly endless strategizing by so many of you who are reading this email.** We are blessed by everyone's hard work, but more than CLUE being blessed, working people in California are now recognized as having inherent worth and dignity. Our religious values are embodied in legislation that is meant to protect "The least of these," "the stranger, orphan and widow," and the downtrodden. Halleluyah! Mazel Tov! Praise God!

See the end of this email for a summary of where we stand.

Blessings,

Rabbi Klein

# STRIKE! APRIL 14

## McJobs cost us all

FightFor15.org | #FightFor15

Let's be real here: While we have lots to celebrate, we have not finished the work! There are still millions of workers in this nation earning \$7.25/hr (The Federal Minimum Wage...can you believe it?), tens of millions who have no recourse when their bosses steal their wages, and hundreds of millions who have no paid sick days. So we ask you to join us on **April 14, Thursday, 10:30 a.m. at Grand and 5th Avenue in Los Angeles** to march with striking fast food workers and community. Through this massive action, we want to clearly send a message to our elected officials: Human inherent worth and dignity is tied to fair compensation for hard work. Or, as Pope John Paul II once said, "A just society gives its workers a just wage."

**El Super: March for Dignity, Respect, and a Voice on the Job**



April 4, on the same day that El Super shareholders were off in a resort in Mexico and on the same day the \$15 minimum wage bill was passed in California — Pastor Cue Jn Marie, Rev. Margaret McCauley, Bishop Juan Carlos Mendes, Pastor Margarita Monsalve, Father Richard Estrada, Rev. Mike Young, and Rabbi Jonathan Klein — joined El Super workers, Huntington Park community leaders and members, and many other social justice organizations at the picket lines and rally to demand respect, dignity, and a voice for workers at El Super. Together — nearly a thousand of us — picketed and marched from a unionized El Super store to a non-unionized El Super store in Huntington Park.



At the rally, **Bishop Juan Carlos Mendes** reminded us that this action was happening on the anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's assassination, and drew from Dr. King's wisdom with a quote: "In the End, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends," to say that a day of action is a day when we are not silent but standing in solidarity with our friends and community in the struggle and fight for justice.

It has been well over a year since the consumer boycott on El Super has started, and El Super has felt the repercussions of it. Chedraui stock has dropped from 5% to nearly -1%. And as UFCW organizer, Rigo Valdez, so succinctly put it: El Super, you can either continue to slow your growth in the U.S. or you can negotiate with your workers fairly.

To watch the "[El Super Workers Send Message to Chedraui Shareholders](#)" video, please click for the link!

#### **CLUE's Ziegler Young Religious Leaders' Fellowship Applications are Open and Due Soon!**

It is that wonderful time of year when CLUE starts accepting applications for our Ziegler Young Religious Leaders' Fellowship Program! Here is a [link](#) to submit applications! **Deadline is April 20, Wednesday.**

### **CLUE ZIEGLER YOUNG RELIGIOUS LEADER ORGANIZING FELLOWSHIP**

#### **2016 Summer Program**

**For Students, Leaders, Activists, and Justice-Seekers**



*Exciting, instructional summer fellowships to learn the practice of Faith Rooted Organizing*

FELLOWSHIP DATES: JUNE 20 – AUGUST 20TH,  
MANDATORY TRAINING SESSION: JUNE 20TH – JUNE 25TH

CLUE offers full-time summer Fellowships, open to all college-age students, from undergrads to graduate students. Workers, pastoral staff and lay leaders who are interested in faith-rooted community organizing should also consider this program.

This nine-week Fellowship includes Faith-Rooted Organizing training, shadowing other organizers, and hands-on organizing of local religious leaders, community and workers. The internship is demanding, fun, dynamic, high energy, creative, and exciting.

**Full-Time Fellowship:** This LA-based Fellowship in Los Angeles requires a commitment to a five-day initial training and regular weekly training and reflection sessions. Organizing also often includes nights and weekends hours.

Some stipends available.

**CLUE educates, organizes and mobilizes the faith community to accompany workers and their families in their struggle for respect and dignity in the workplace.**

**How to Apply**

Online applications available now through April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016:  
[http://www.cluejustice.org/programs\\_yrlf](http://www.cluejustice.org/programs_yrlf)

Interviews conducted on a rolling basis. Space Limited!

#### **More Noteworthy Dates**

- UCARE Committee Meeting - April 8, Friday 12 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Please contact [Guillermo](#).
- Santa Monica City Council Meeting - April 12, Tuesday 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Please contact [Gabriella](#).
- BIG FIGHT FOR 15 ACTION - APRIL 14, THURSDAY 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.
- PLUM Hearing on Digital Signs- April 19, Tuesday at City Hall. Please contact [Jonathan](#).
- Young Religious Fellows' Leadership Program Application due by April 20, Wednesday.
- Pasadena Committee Meeting - April 21, Thursday 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. at Kerwin Manning's Church. Please contact [Jonathan](#).
- GIANTS OF JUSTICE - MAY 26, THURSDAY, 8am. Please contact [Pam](#).



PS.: Here's a summary of the minimum wages as outlined by the latest run of increases (In all jurisdictions, all businesses with 25 or less workers get one extra year to reach these minimum wages). Long Beach might be off by one year, as some reports indicated \$15 by 2021:

[Los Angeles City and County, Santa Monica, Long Beach, and Pasadena](#)

1/16: \$10  
7/16: \$10.50  
7/17: \$12  
7/18: \$13.25 (Pasadena and Santa Monica pause here for studies)  
7/19: \$14.25  
7/20: \$15

[West Hollywood](#)

1/16: \$10  
1/17: \$12  
.... (CA increases, starting three years later)  
7/20: \$13  
1/21: \$14  
1/22: \$15

[Everywhere else in California](#)

1/16: \$10  
1/17: \$10.50  
1/18: \$11  
1/19: \$12  
1/20: \$13  
1/21: \$14  
1/22: \$15

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