

PC #40  
October 23, 2018

Honorable Vice Mayor, Members of the City Council, and Long Beach City Attorney Charles Parkin,

On September 4th, Councilmembers: Price, Mungo, Andrews, Supernaw, Austin brought forward an item that directed City Attorney to draft a similar ordinance to Measure WW slated to be on the Long Beach November 2018 Ballot, that includes a request for hotels to have safety panic buttons but similarly ignore working conditions of workers by not limiting the square footage assigned to hotel workers.

**We believe this creates a conflict of interest under the Political Reform Act. We have submitted a formal request to the Enforcement Division of the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPCC) for further investigation and clarification regarding Long Beach City Council agenda item 18-0797 and its conflict of interest with Long Beach City Council agenda item RES-18-0118.**

We believe that this undermines the efforts and hard work of Measure WW proponents, 46,000+ voters and residents of the City of Long Beach. We are clear that these efforts are put forth to confuse voters to the advantage of hoteliers in opposition to the measure.

Additionally, it should be noted that these same five councilmembers, were the same ones who opposed similar, previous motions brought forward in the past year advocating for these safety measures. It was made clear to us that we could not count on our City Council to protect our Long Beach hotel workers. Due to this, Measure WW was set forth.

On August 7th, 2018, the City Council adopted resolution RES-18-0118, for the placement of Measure WW on the November 2018 ballot. Measure WW, if approved BY VOTERS, would require a hotel in City of Long Beach (of 50 or more rooms) to supply hotel employees who work in guest rooms without other hotel employees present with an electronic contact device, for summoning on-scene assistance and reporting threatening conduct.

If adopted, Measure WW would require hotels to give a "panic button" to "each hotel employee assigned to work in a guest room without other hotel employees present, at no cost to the hotel employee." The Proposed Ordinance would require hotels to provide "a panic button to each hotel employee assigned to work in a guest room or other space without other hotel employees present... at no cost to the hotel employee." Measure WW would permit a hotel employee to use the panic button "if the hotel employee reasonably believes there is an ongoing crime, threatening behavior, or other emergency in the hotel employee's presence." The Proposed

Ordinance would permit a hotel employee to use the panic button “if the hotel employee reasonably believes there is an ongoing crime, threatening behavior, unwanted physical or verbal contact, or other emergency in the employee’s presence.” Measure WW would permit the hotel employee to “cease work and leave the immediate area of danger to await the arrival of assistance.” The Proposed Ordinance would permit hotel employees to “cease work and leave the immediate area of danger to await the arrival or assistance.”

Absent from the Proposed Ordinance, however, are Measure WW’s provisions that hotels and business lobbying groups disagree with most vehemently. The Proposed Ordinance does not include a provision requiring hotels to post a notice in guest rooms advising guests that hotel employees have panic buttons and are protected under the law. The Proposed Ordinance does not include protections against inhumane workloads or mandatory overtime. The Proposed Ordinance does not include the robust enforcement and anti-retaliation provisions that Measure WW does.

**AGAIN, We believe this creates a conflict of interest under the Political Reform Act. We have submitted a formal request to the Enforcement Division of the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPCC) for further investigation and clarification regarding Long Beach City Council agenda item 18-0797 and its conflict of interest with Long Beach City Council agenda item RES-18-0118.**

With grave concern,

Victor Sanchez

Director

Long Beach Coalition for Good Jobs and a Healthy Community