

Living Wage

HIC # 2003-04-033

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

To the Honorable Mayor and Common Council of the City of La Crosse:

Your Judiciary & Administrative Committee and Finance & Personnel Committee on April 8, 2003, having under consideration the annexed resolution approving a living wage for construction contracts and development agreements that are financed in part with City funds which benefit primarily a single business organization so that families and individuals meet a certain minimum level of decency, recommends the same be adopted as second amended.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard P. Becker, Chmn
Charles Clemence
Dave Goodin
Jon M. Olson
Todd Olson
Robert Slaback

David R. Morrison, Chmn.
Joe Ledvina
Douglas Farmer
Mark Johnsrud
Mark Meyer

RESOLUTION AND
RESOLUTION ADOPTED

APR 10 2003
BY COUNCIL

APR 23 2003

RT
MP
Mayor

SECOND AMENDED RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, La Crosse is and will continue to be a business friendly community,
and

WHEREAS, City of La Crosse taxpayers subsidize low wage jobs through increased taxes for health and human services for the poor, and

WHEREAS it should be a basic right of all workers to earn a living wage in accordance with State law and in order to provide for their families and to meet a certain minimum level of decency, and

~~WHEREAS, the City of La Crosse lets many contracts each year for maintenance, construction and repair projects and considering the impact that these projects have on the taxpaying citizens of the City, these contracts should not allow the work to be performed at any wage less than a living wage.~~

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of La Crosse that said living wage be not less than 110 percent of the annual income of a family of four, based on the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services most recent poverty guidelines, which wage at the current time would be \$9.73 ~~\$8.44~~ per hour.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in order for said living wage to be carried out according to the intent of this resolution, the City of La Crosse shall not enter into any development agreement or capital expenditure for the primary benefit of a single business or organization, unless it is demonstrated that the majority of the full-time jobs created or supported by the expenditure will command wages equal to or greater than this living wage amount.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this living wage policy should not apply to any job that is subject to the prevailing wage laws, in which event said applicable prevailing wage law shall apply, and that the same not displace or disrupt the past practices of utilizing union labor wages in such cases.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall not in any way be used or is the same intended to reduce wages received by full-time skilled and unskilled workers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the living wage previously referred to herein include the basic wage plus fringe benefits in accordance with the methodology utilized for public construction contracts for what is known as the prevailing wage in order to meet Davis-Bacon requirements as well as Wisconsin public construction contract requirements.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that fringe benefits include health insurance, retirement, life insurance, vacation and some contributions to training funds and do not include employer payments or contributions required by other federal, state or local laws, such as the employer's contribution to social security or some disability payments.

~~BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall not apply to non-profit, tax-exempt organizations, which are exempt from state and federal income tax.~~

Typed: 4-9-03

Approved: