
August 4, 2018

Session 2

Facilitator Notes – Wendy Liverseed (612) 386-2287

(8 participants all from Minneapolis area)

What is your name? What part of Saint Paul do you live in? What brought you here today?

Themes:

Economic Justice/Injustice

- More wealth being created in the city and not coming back into the community when the small business fail when they can no longer afford employees
- Fear of the already overpriced cost of rent will be unjustifiably increased by landlords do to people making higher wages
- Consider phasing larger corporations faster than the small ones
- Fear of smaller, minority owned businesses having to resort to paying employees' cash under the table. May cause exploitation of minorities
- People (youth) go to selling marijuana so they can afford their rent
- State employees' contracts need to be revamped
- Non-Profits taking advantage of the system not paying taxes in St. Paul

Communication

- Need a “fast track” to simplify the processes
- Need more input sessions
- Work closer with the counties to make process smoother
- Educate citizens on the processes

What opportunities or challenges can you see in raising the minimum wage?

Themes:

Youth Wages

- Kids are spending their own wages providing for their families
- Will encourage “slave labor”, businesses hiring only youth
- May cause elders to no longer be desirable in the workforce.

Wait Staff - Tips

- No tip penalty - No exceptions
- Believed to be earned by performance and should not be counted towards income
- Most wait staff positions are without benefits and are not full-time positions
- Consider tip credit

Communication

- Need a very good action plan to teach and educate citizens on the processes. Just Phasing in is not enough.
- A better job at communicating ALL processes to ALL people and to ALL communities.

Having heard about the Citizens League process and the opportunities and challenges presented by your neighbors, how can we move forward with raising the minimum wage in the City of Saint Paul?

Themes:

- Need a better job at communicating ALL processes to ALL people and in ALL communities.
- Implementing a City formula for calculating benefits to include housing costs
- Advocating for \$15.00+ not exceptions, no tip penalty, no youth wages (could encourage businesses to only hire students)
- Small business owners may go out of business or may no longer be able to afford to offer healthcare and/or employees
- Economy turning into Corporations vs. Small businesses
- May cause exploitation of employees working for cash
- Needs to be an educational component of the process(s)
- Have very clear, straight forward process, strategic process plan
- Put out FACTS and get rid of the myths
- Affordability of rent, especially for students just graduating