



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS THE MINIMUM WAGE IN MASSACHUSETTS

- WHEREAS,* The minimum wage for most workers in Massachusetts is established under the state Minimum Fair Wage Law at Chapter 151 of the General Laws, and the state Department of Labor Standards promulgates regulations at 454 CMR 27 to clarify practices and policies in the administration and enforcement of the law; *and*
- WHEREAS,* Since 2013, the Raise Up Massachusetts coalition, comprised of more than 150 community organizations, faith-based groups, and labor unions, has led legislative and ballot campaigns advocating for increases in the state's minimum wage; *and*
- WHEREAS,* Raise Up Massachusetts initiated a \$15.00 minimum wage signature collection campaign aimed at placing a citizen-initiated measure on the 2018 gubernatorial ballot, which led to legislative action through Chapter 121 of the Acts of 2018, known as the "Grand Bargain"; *and*
- WHEREAS,* The "Grand Bargain" increased the minimum wage to \$12.00 in 2019, to \$12.75 in 2020, to \$13.50 in 2021, to \$14.25 in 2022, and to the current rate of \$15.00 per hour effective January 1, 2023; *and*
- WHEREAS,* The "Grand Bargain" also made increases for tipped workers, raising the service rate to \$4.35 in 2019, to \$4.95 in 2020, to \$5.55 in 2021, to \$6.15 in 2022, and \$6.75 effective January 1, 2023, with employers required to ensure that tips plus wages equal at least the standard minimum wage; *and*
- WHEREAS,* The federal minimum wage for covered nonexempt employees is \$7.25 per hour under the Fair Labor Standards Act, enforced by the U.S. Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division, but in states with higher minimum wage laws such as Massachusetts, employees are entitled to the higher wage rate; *and*
- WHEREAS,* The Boston Planning Department Research Division has published economic reports analyzing trends in wage growth and labor market conditions in Boston, which provide context for evaluating the adequacy of the minimum wage and the need for periodic increases to keep pace with the cost of living and ensure that workers are paid a livable wage; *NOW, THEREFORE BE IT*
- ORDERED:* That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss the minimum wage in Massachusetts, and that representatives of city agencies, advocacy organizations, as well as relevant stakeholders and interested members of the public, be invited to attend.