

COMMUNITY BOARD #1 – MANHATTAN
RESOLUTION

DATE: DECEMBER 20, 2011

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: PLANNING & COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE AND
SEAPORT/ CIVIC CENTER

PLANNING VOTE: 0 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

PUBLIC MEMBERS: 0 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

SEAPORT VOTE: 0 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

PUBLIC MEMBERS: 0 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

BOARD VOTE: 0 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

RE: Support for the New York City Council's Fair Wages for New Yorkers Act: No. 251-A,
also known as the Living Wage Bill.

WHEREAS: On Tuesday, November 22nd, the New York City Council held a hearing on the Fair
Wages for New Yorkers Act; and

WHEREAS: The proposed law would require that employees in city-subsidized projects be paid at
least \$10 an hour with benefits, or \$11.50 an hour without benefits; and

WHEREAS: In response to criticism that the measure would hurt small businesses and manufacturing,
the bill was amended to exclude manufacturing businesses and apply only to companies
with at least \$5 million in annual revenue located in developments that had received at
least \$1 million in city subsidies; and

WHEREAS: At least 15 cities have laws guaranteeing living wages for workers on subsidized
development projects. In Los Angeles, living wage guarantees are the norm on virtually
all major development projects. In Pittsburgh and Allegheny County, Pennsylvania there
are comprehensive laws guaranteeing fair wages on projects receiving taxpayer-funded
subsidies;¹ and

WHEREAS: A new national study by the Center for American Progress (CAP) provides a
comprehensive national analysis of job growth in 15 cities that extend living-wage laws
to their economic development projects.² According to the CAP study, research indicates
that higher minimum and living wages lead to efficiency gains for firms through reduced
turnover. Increasing wages for the lowest-paid workers also stimulates local economies,
as low income households typically spend more of their dollars locally.

BE IT

THEREFORE

RESOLVED

THAT: Community Board #1 supports the revised version of the Fair Wages for New Yorkers
Act and urges the New York City Council to move forward with this legislation and to
continue dialogue with all relevant stakeholders.

¹ "Frequently Asked Questions." *Living Wage NYC*. N.p., n.d. Web. 9 Dec 2011

² T. William Lester and Ken Jacobs, "Creating Good Jobs in Our Communities: How Higher Wage Standards Affect
Economic Development and Employment," (Center for American Progress, November 2010).