

From: David Preston
Sent time: 03/03/2014
To: Bruce Harrell
Cc:
BCc:
Subject: Minimum Wage Impact

Bruce Harrell
Seattle City Council

Hi, Bruce:

About a month ago you sent me an electronic newsletter and in that newsletter you mentioned that you were in favor of a \$15-per-hour minimum in Seattle. In response to that, I e-mailed you back and asked whether your office had done any research on what the impacts of such a mandatory wage hike would be. To date, I haven't heard back from you, so let me restate the question. (And this time I'm going to be a little more explicit.)

Question: Have you or any of your staff done any research on what the impacts of a mandatory wage increase to \$15 per hour will be on the job market here in Seattle? If so, where is that research? I'd like to have a look at it.

Also, as you may be aware, there is a large number of illegal immigrant workers here in Seattle. In fact, I see a dozen or more standing around in the parking lot at Home Depot by my house every morning. Several of my neighbors have had various kinds of work done in their yards and around their houses by illegal workers from Latin America. And then there's restaurants . . .

Illegal immigrant workers are typically non-union, and they usually work off the books below-market wages. In addition to generally depressing wage rates, illegal immigrants (and other off-the-books workers) are costing the City and State millions of dollars annually in unpaid payroll taxes.

Question: Is the City of Seattle doing anything to enforce labor laws that are already on the books with regard to illegal immigrants and other off-the-books workers?

Question: If the new minimum wage is implemented, how will it be enforced? Will the City be adding any enforcement staff to ensure that employers are not cheating? Or will it be on the honor system?

Thanks in advance for your prompt response, Bruce. Please be advised that I run a news blog here in West Seattle, and your answers (or lack thereof) are likely to be published.

Regards,

David Preston,
Editor

The Blog Quixotic

