Will Your Business Be Next?

On Wednesday, Nov. 15, the Los Angeles City Council will vote on an ordinance that will tell 12 hotels on Century Boulevard near Los Angeles International Airport how much to pay their employees, how to distribute service charges and tips, and when they can replace employees if the hotel is sold.

The City Council will justify this ordinance on the grounds that the hotels are located next to LAX, and because much of the business done by these hotels involves persons who fly in and out of LAX, the city has the right to extend its living wage ordinance to these hotels.

The city’s living wage ordinance currently applies to companies that are located on city-owned property or have a business contract with the city. These hotels meet neither of these two criteria. They are located on private property and do not have a business contract with the city. Thus, this ordinance is about to break new ground that every privately held business in the city of L.A. has reason to be concerned about.

That is why it’s important that your voice is heard immediately. Call or e-mail your councilmember now:

Dist. 1- Ed Reyes, 213.473.7001, reyes@council.lacity.org
Dist. 2- Wendy Greuel, 213.473.7002, greuel@council.lacity.org
Dist. 3- Dennis Zine, 213.473.7003, zine@council.lacity.org
Dist. 4- Tom LaBonge, 213.473.7004, labonge@council.lacity.org
Dist. 5- Jack Weiss, 213.473.7005, weiss@council.lacity.org
Dist. 6- Tony Cardenas, 213.473.7006, cardenas@council.lacity.org
Dist. 7- Alex Padilla, 213.473.7007, padilla@council.lacity.org
Dist. 8- Bernard Parks, 213.473.7008, parks@council.lacity.org
Dist. 9- Jan Perry, 213.473.7009, perry@council.lacity.org
Dist. 10- Herb Wesson, 213.473.7010, wesson@council.lacity.org
Dist. 11- Bill Rosendahl, 213.473.7011, rosendahl@council.lacity.org
Dist. 12- Greig Smith, 213.473.7012, smith@greig.smith
Dist. 13- Eric Garcetti, 213.473.7013, garcetti@council.lacity.org
Dist. 14- Jose Huizar, 213.473.7014, huizar@council.lacity.org
Dist. 15- Janice Hahn, 213.473.7015, hahn@council.lacity.org

At last week’s City Council meeting, several Councilmembers said that because “the city has spent billions of dollars at LAX, the City Council has the right to extend the living wage ordinance to these hotels that benefit from LAX.” In reality, the city of L.A. provides no funding for the operation of the airport. Fees paid by the airlines, airline travelers and concessionaires pay for LAX.

Nine years ago when the city passed its living wage ordinance, business was told not to worry because the ordinance would only apply to businesses that voluntarily did business with the city. The City Council’s meeting this Wednesday is the reason the business community was worried nine years ago.

The majority of the members of the L.A. City Council do not understand the message this ordinance sends to businesses in the city of L.A.—just like they didn’t understand the message that last year’s grocery store ordinance, which is now in court, sent to companies who were considering expanding and creating new jobs in L.A.

Our only hope is that the City Council will listen to you. We suggest you contact them and visit about this subject. After all, your business could be next.

And that’s The Business Perspective.