

City of Providence
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 30

EFFECTIVE January 27, 2014

WHEREAS, The federally mandated minimum wage is seven dollars and twenty-five cents (\$7.25) per hour; and

WHEREAS, An individual working at the federally mandated minimum wage eight hours a day, every day for a full calendar year would earn only \$21,170, which is less than the federal poverty level for a family of four; and

WHEREAS, According to Business Insider, in 2013, Americans' wages as a percentage of gross domestic product dropped to an all-time low, while 95% of the income increase in the U.S. since 2009 went to the top 1% of earners; and

WHEREAS, The real purchasing power of today's minimum wage is lower than it was at any point from 1956 to 1983; and

WHEREAS, If the increases in the minimum wage had kept pace with inflation since 1968, the federally mandated minimum today would be \$10.72 per hour; and

WHEREAS, On January 1st, Rhode Island's minimum wage was increased from \$7.75 per hour to \$8 per hour; and

WHEREAS, According to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, a single adult with no children working full-time and living in Providence County, Rhode Island would need to earn \$9.90 per hour to support himself; and

WHEREAS, President Obama has proposed increasing the federal minimum wage to \$10.10 by 2015 and thereafter index the figure to inflation; and

WHEREAS, According to economists at the University of Massachusetts, such an increase would lift 4.6 million Americans out of poverty; and

WHEREAS, A separate study conducted by the Restaurant Opportunities Center United in 2011 found that a \$10.10 minimum wage would lift more than half of the working poor - more than 6 million Americans - out of poverty; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Island has the highest poverty rate in New England at 13.6%; and

WHEREAS, According the Kids Count Data Center, nearly one in five of Rhode Island's children live below the poverty line; and

WHEREAS, Indexing the minimum wage to inflation would prevent a repeat of the 34% decline in its real value that occurred from 1978 to 1989 and the 19% decline that occurred from 1998 to 2006; and

WHEREAS, Many of the nation's leading economists, including former Secretary of Labor Robert Reich and Nobel Laureate Joseph Stiglitz, have argued that, because low wage workers spend the vast majority of their earnings, increasing the minimum wage would cause an increase in both economic activity and employment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the City Council of the City of Providence does hereby urge the United State Congress to increase the federal minimum wage to \$10.10 per hour and index the minimum wage to inflation.

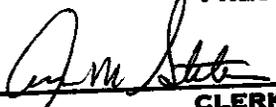
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That, upon passage, copies of this resolution be sent to Speaker John Boehner, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, and to the entire Rhode Island Congressional delegation.

IN CITY COUNCIL

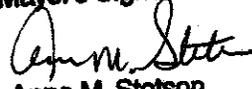
JAN 16 2014

READ AND PASSED


PRES.


CLERK

Effective without the
Mayor's Signature


Anna M. Stetson
City Clerk