



**PUBLIC REQUEST TO ADDRESS
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

HILDA L. SOLIS
HOLLY J. MITCHELL
LINDSEY P. HORVATH
JANICE HAHN
KATHRYN BARGER

Correspondence Received

The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:				
Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
25.		Favor	Amy Yu	<p>My name is Amy Yu, and I am writing on behalf of Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County. I am a staff attorney on the Workers' Rights team, where we provide legal services to low-wage and immigrant workers across LA County who experience wage theft, discrimination, and retaliation. As an organization working directly with workers navigating the enforcement process, we strongly support efforts to strengthen and expand wage theft enforcement. This motion is an important step toward addressing the persistent gap in economic justice for workers who face significant delays—or are never able—to recover their legally owed wages.</p> <p>Too often, we see cases where employers evade accountability by closing businesses, reopening under new names, filing for bankruptcy, or otherwise avoiding payment. Many of these are repeat offenders who exploit gaps in the system, leaving workers without meaningful recourse even after judgments are issued in their favor.</p> <p>Strengthening collaboration with worker centers to enforce judgments and penalties would meaningfully advance the goals of SB 261 and AB 3075, and help ensure that enforcement mechanisms actually result in workers being paid.</p> <p>We urge the Board to support this motion and continue investing in community-based partnerships that hold employers accountable and deliver real relief to workers.</p>
			Ann Dorsey	
			Armando Gudino	



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25.		Favor	Deysi Perez	<p>As a single mother from the Second District, I experienced wage theft for over three years while working at a small market in an unincorporated area of District 1. I am speaking from lived experience, to share how in many instances us as workers often lack the knowledge, resources, or legal standing to challenge these violations on our own.</p> <p>This motion addresses a critical gap in accountability. Worker centers provide an essential support infrastructure for low-wage workers, many of whom come from immigrant and single-parent households and are navigating complex workplace violations with little to no institutional support. Without mechanisms like this, wage theft goes unreported, unresolved, and unpunished, often for years.</p> <p>The opposition to this motion is telling. If a business is operating lawfully and treating its workers fairly, this motion poses no threat. The only businesses with reason to oppose these protections are those that benefit from workers remaining uninformed and unprotected, and without a voice.</p> <p>I urge the Board to support this motion. Worker equity is not a privilege should be a right. For those of us who have already lost years of wages and economic stability, this motion represents long-overdue accountability and a meaningful step toward safety and justice in the workplace.</p>
			JB Baum	<p>I am a longtime resident of Los Angeles with ties to the entertainment industry and education, and I strongly support Agenda Items 25 and 26. Having lived in downtown Los Angeles and worked with the garment industry, I have seen how wage theft continues to harm workers, particularly in low-wage and immigrant-heavy sectors that are essential to our local economy.</p> <p>Too often, these workers face predatory practices with insufficient enforcement of existing labor laws. Strengthening county-level enforcement and compliance mechanisms is critical to ensuring workers are paid what they are owed and to maintaining a fair market where responsible employers are not undercut.</p> <p>I urge the Board to adopt Items 25 and 26.</p>



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Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
25.		Favor	Kristoffer Smemo	I support this motion because it will help ensure that LA County workers get the pay they have rightfully earned and the respect they deserve. LA County is the wage theft capital of the United States, and in the face of such egregious abuse the County must take a proactive approach and work hand-in-hand with trusted community-based organizations to ensure workers have the resources they need to receive the paycheck they've earned. As a labor educator, researcher, and union member, I know that enforcement, especially through organizations that represent workers and amplify their collective voice, provides the best way to ensure that the letter of the law is respected. A County that enforces the laws on the books is good for workers and good for business – without enforcement, bad actors can undercut good ones and drive a race to the bottom.
			Mary Lindie I Entoma	These motions will help ensure LA County workers get the pay they have rightfully earned and support the local employers that are doing it right and providing high-quality jobs with living wages and safe conditions.



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Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
25.		Favor	Rosemarie Molina	<p>I have spent the last 20 years as an organizer in the workers' rights movement, and I currently teach Labor Studies at UCLA and California State University, Dominguez Hills. From both my professional experience and my work in academia I can say clearly: we are facing a wage theft crisis.</p> <p>I'm writing in support of Agenda Items 25 and 26. Together, these motions set a clear and common-sense standard: if you want public dollars, you must meet public values. They level the playing field for responsible employers and ensure that workers are treated with dignity, and getting paid what they earn. If employers are doing the right thing, they have nothing to fear from stronger enforcement or higher standards.</p> <p>The truth is: Workers in LA County are losing billions of dollars every year to wage theft. That is money taken directly from rent, food, and the basic necessities people need to survive. It's happening every day to workers who can least afford it.</p> <p>Item 25 is a critical shift from a reactive system to a proactive one. It also invests in partnerships with trusted community organizations that workers turn to when something goes wrong. We know that this approach works. When government partners with worker organizations, enforcement is stronger, cases are identified more quickly, and wages are recovered more effectively.</p> <p>At the same time, these items recognize that enforcement alone is not enough. We must also ensure that public dollars are aligned with public values.</p> <p>Right now, responsible employers—those who follow the law, pay fair wages, and provide safe working conditions—are being undercut by those who do not. In some cases, public dollars can even reinforce that imbalance.</p> <p>Los Angeles County has the opportunity to lead differently. By using its purchasing power to support local manufacturers who meet high standards, the County can help grow an economy rooted in fairness and opportunity.</p> <p>I urge you to support both items.</p>
			Shannon Camacho	



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The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:				
25.		Favor	Sherry X Zhou	My name is Sherry, and I am an undergraduate student at UCLA serving as student body External Vice President. I am writing today in strong support of agenda item 25. Workers in Los Angeles deserve protection to ensure that they get the pay they have rightfully earned -- this measure supports local employers that are doing right by their workers by providing high-quality jobs with living wages and safe conditions. As a student, I understand firsthand how rising cost of living directly burdens individuals' ability to sustain themselves in Los Angeles. It is important to me that the Council stand by the millions of working class individuals who call this community home. Thank you!
		Other	Carlos Singer	
		Item Total	11	
26.	25	Favor	Armando Gudino	
			Brayan Banda Segura	
			Dariana Banda	
			Deysi Perez	
			JB Baum	I am a longtime resident of Los Angeles with ties to the entertainment industry and education, and I strongly support Agenda Items 25 and 26. Having lived in downtown Los Angeles and worked with the garment industry, I have seen how wage theft continues to harm workers, particularly in low-wage and immigrant-heavy sectors that are essential to our local economy. Too often, these workers face predatory practices with insufficient enforcement of existing labor laws. Strengthening county-level enforcement and compliance mechanisms is critical to ensuring workers are paid what they are owed and to maintaining a fair market where responsible employers are not undercut. I urge the Board to adopt Items 25 and 26.
Kristoffer Smemo	LA County is a manufacturing hub and is home to the nation's largest garment manufacturing industry. Local small businesses are making the products LA County needs every day, while also providing high-quality career paths for Angelenos. LA County has the opportunity to use its own market power to support these employers by buying the products it needs from producers in our own backyard, all while helping grow high quality jobs that support families across the County. As a labor researcher, educator, and union member, I know how beneficial it is for the community as a whole when working people earn high wages that allow them to live comfortable and decent lives.			



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26.	25	Favor	Mary Lindie I Entoma	LA County has the opportunity to use its own market power to support these employers by buying the products it needs from producers in our own backyard, all while helping grow high quality jobs that support families across the County.
			Rosemarie Molina	<p>I have spent the last 20 years as an organizer in the workers' rights movement, and I currently teach Labor Studies at UCLA and California State University, Dominguez Hills. From both my professional experience and my work in academia I can say clearly: we are facing a wage theft crisis.</p> <p>I'm writing in support of Agenda Items 25 and 26. Together, these motions set a clear and common-sense standard: if you want public dollars, you must meet public values. They level the playing field for responsible employers and ensure that workers are treated with dignity, and getting paid what they earn. If employers are doing the right thing, they have nothing to fear from stronger enforcement or higher standards.</p> <p>The truth is: Workers in LA County are losing billions of dollars every year to wage theft. That is money taken directly from rent, food, and the basic necessities people need to survive. It's happening every day to workers who can least afford it.</p> <p>Item 25 is a critical shift from a reactive system to a proactive one. It also invests in partnerships with trusted community organizations that workers turn to when something goes wrong. We know that this approach works. When government partners with worker organizations, enforcement is stronger, cases are identified more quickly, and wages are recovered more effectively.</p> <p>At the same time, these items recognize that enforcement alone is not enough. We must also ensure that public dollars are aligned with public values.</p> <p>Right now, responsible employers—those who follow the law, pay fair wages, and provide safe working conditions—are being undercut by those who do not. In some cases, public dollars can even reinforce that imbalance.</p> <p>Los Angeles County has the opportunity to lead differently. By using its purchasing power to support local manufacturers who meet high standards, the County can help grow an economy rooted in fairness and opportunity.</p> <p>I urge you to support both items.</p>

			The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:	
Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
26.	25	Favor	Sherry X Zhou	My name is Sherry, and I am an undergraduate student at UCLA serving as student body External Vice President. I am writing today in strong support of agenda item 26. Los Angeles is home to one of the largest populations of working class Americans, many of which own and operate small businesses that sustain their local community. With this measure, LA County has the opportunity to use its own market power to support these employers by buying the products it needs from producers in our own backyard, all while helping grow high quality jobs that support families across the County. As a student, i understand firsthand how important it is to support our communities, and ensure that we invest in a cycle that bolsters economic mobility and growth. Thank you!
		Item Total	9	
Grand Total			20	



May 5, 2026

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**Re: Item 25 — Reclaiming Wages for Workers through Worker-Centric Approaches
(26-2346)**

**Item 26 — Made in Los Angeles Program Pilot: Harnessing Los Angeles County’s
Purchasing Power to Support Local Manufacturing (26-2344)**

Dear Chair Solis and Supervisors Mitchell, Horvath, Hahn, and Barger,

On behalf of the Los Angeles Worker Center Network (LAWCN) and all of the organizations signed below, we are urging you to pass Agenda Item 25 (*Reclaiming Wages for Workers through Worker-Centric Approaches; 26-2346*) and Agenda Item 26 (*Made in Los Angeles Program Pilot: Harnessing Los Angeles County’s Purchasing Power to Support Local Manufacturing; 26-2344*). These motions advance accountability for wage theft while leveling the playing field for the employers across LA County who are already leading the way by providing living wages, safe conditions, and quality jobs in their communities.

Los Angeles continues to carry the troubling distinction of being the wage theft capital of the nation, with an estimated \$28 million lost to wage theft every week in Los Angeles County. It is also an issue that continues to surface in broader public conversations about economic fairness, housing, labor standards, and the future of work in our city. As civic and political discussions across Los Angeles increasingly focus on the economic conditions facing working families, voters are looking to County and City leadership to demonstrate that protecting low-wage workers remains a priority.

Wage theft undercuts families' abilities to provide for themselves and pushes them into greater dependence on public programs. As LAWCN documented in our concept paper *Labor Standards Enforcement Paves the Way for a New LA*, wage theft also fuels the region's housing and homelessness crisis: studies attribute rising homelessness to loss of income above all else, and wage theft compounds that risk most acutely for workers of color, women, and immigrants. Strengthening OLE's enforcement capacity is how the County keeps earned wages in the hands of the workers and families who have rightfully earned them. Recovering stolen wages through stronger co-enforcement is, therefore, both an economic justice imperative and a fiscal one.

The recommendations outlined in the motions are not new obligations for businesses and the standards referenced are already required under existing California law. They would strengthen the Office of Labor Equity's (OLE) capacity to fulfill its mandate of protecting the legal rights workers are already afforded. By enabling OLE to collect fines and fees under AB 3075 and SB 261, formalizing co-enforcement partnerships with worker centers, including LAWCN and its member organizations, and prioritizing the industries with the highest rates of violations, the County is well-positioned to close the gap between rights on paper and rights in practice.

It is also important to recognize the broader economic context in which this discussion is taking place. Los Angeles is entering a period of unprecedented international attention as the region prepares to host the World Cup and the Olympic Games. These events will bring billions of dollars in economic activity and place our labor standards under international scrutiny. If Los Angeles is to present itself as a global destination that values fair work and lawful competition, it must ensure that the systems responsible for enforcing those standards have the powers and resources necessary to do their job.

LAWCN will continue to stand with workers and their families to support, protect, and fight for policies that elevate opportunity and fairness in the workplace. These motions represent an important step toward improving the lives of workers across the County of Los Angeles.

Signed,

LAWCN Members:

Armando Gudino

Executive Director
LA Worker Center Network

Flor Melendrez

Executive Director
CLEAN Carwash Worker Center

Marissa Nuncio

Executive Director
Garment Worker Center

Janel Jenkins

Co-Director
Los Angeles Black Worker Center

Alexandra Suh

Executive Director
Koreatown Immigrant Workers
Alliance

Sheheryar Kaosji

Executive Director
Warehouse Worker
Resource Center

Aquilina Soriano Versoza

Executive Director
Pilipino Workers Center of SoCal

Saba Waheed

Director
UCLA Labor Center

Yvonne Medrano

Directing Attorney
Employment Rights Project
Bet Tzedek Legal Services