

**RESOLUTION**

**NO. R-19-144**

**CITY HALL: April 11, 2019**

**BY: COUNCILMEMBERS MORENO AND WILLIAMS**

**CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION URGING THE LOUISIANA LEGISLATURE TO PASS HB 422 AND REPEAL La. Rev. St. 23:642 TO EMPOWER LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO SET THEIR OWN MINIMUM WAGES AND WORKER PROTECTION POLICIES**

**WHEREAS**, the City of New Orleans is committed to promoting a fair and equitable local, regional, and state economy; and

**WHEREAS**, city and parish governments are closely connected to the needs of the communities they represent and are uniquely positioned to pass laws and policies that best protect the public welfare, health, and prosperity of their constituents; and

**WHEREAS**, Orleans Parish is committed to protecting the powers enshrined in the Louisiana Constitution and the Home Rule Charter for the City of New Orleans; and

**WHEREAS**, almost half of Louisiana households do not earn enough to afford basic costs such as housing, child care, food, transportation, health care, and technology; and

**WHEREAS**, a single adult with one child living in the State of Louisiana has to work more than one minimum wage job to make ends meet; and

**WHEREAS**, the cost of living varies substantially across Louisiana, and is the highest in Orleans Parish; and

**WHEREAS**, research and economic data show that poverty is concentrated among people of color, children, people with lower educational attainment, and female-headed households; higher wages for these families would provide them with more money to spend in the Louisiana economy, more time to spend with their children, and particularly in the case of single-parent households, the ability to return to work quicker; and

**WHEREAS**, evictions in New Orleans are over twice the national average and over a third of Orleans Parish residents spend more than half their income on rent; residents should not be forced out of their communities because wages have failed to keep up with rental and overall living costs; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of New Orleans has a strong interest in ensuring the health and well-being of our residents; and

**WHEREAS**, income and strong worker protection policies are two of the strongest predictors of both individual and public health outcomes; and

**WHEREAS**, data from other states with local wage options show demonstrable benefits to both local and state economies, including higher levels of job retention, better health outcomes, and elevated consumer spending; **NOW THEREFORE**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, That the tradition of local decision-making in Louisiana should be protected, as it provides each municipality the ability to preserve and enhance the many characteristics that make each of them unique, and allows municipalities to maintain the quality of life of their residents.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That passage of legislation to repeal state overreach into local control of worker protection policies would help improve the lives of Orleans Parish residents and local businesses by spurring consumer spending and creating a healthier, more sustainable local economy.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That passage of legislation to repeal state overreach into local control of worker protection policies would allow the New Orleans City Council to act on the unique needs, values, and cost of living in Orleans Parish, including setting a local wage floor that more accurately reflects the needs of our community and its citizens.

**THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION WAS READ IN FULL, THE ROLL WAS CALLED ON THE ADOPTION THEREOF, AND RESULTED AS FOLLOWS:**

**YEAS:**

**NAYS:**

**ABSENT:**

**AND THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.**