

New Sunnyvale minimum wage effective on New Year's Day

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Updated: 12/31/2014 06:05:43 PM PST

MercuryNews.com

As of Jan. 1, the minimum wage was officially upped to \$10.30 per hour within Sunnyvale city limits.

The council initially voted in April to follow the state minimum wage increase from \$8 to \$9 per hour on July 1, 2014, as well as the planned increase from \$9 to \$10 per hour on Jan. 1, 2016.

"The minimum wage increase is just one step to protect Sunnyvale's low-income families from the worst effects of Silicon Valley's booming economic success," said Mayor Jim Griffith. "We benefit when Sunnyvale has a balanced and diverse community. This gives us a mandate to look at wage equity, local hiring initiatives, affordable housing solutions and other ways to protect the most vulnerable of Sunnyvale's residents."

Following in the footsteps of San Jose and Mountain View, the Sunnyvale ordinance will include an annual adjustment to the minimum wage on Jan. 1 of every year, based on the prior year's Consumer Price Index.

The city received a variety of support and opposition from residents, business owners and business employees.

In a survey of 459 Sunnyvale business owners, residents and business employees, asking whether or not the city should increase to \$10 per hour ahead of the state, 70 percent said "yes" and 30 percent said "no."

The council also voted to include a resolution to work with the city of Mountain View on a regional minimum wage of \$15 an hour by 2018.

"We need this to be a regional effort, which means involving Mountain View, San Jose and other cities, and that won't happen quickly," Griffith said. "Both Mountain View and San Jose are still getting settled with their new council, and Mountain View and we still need to see how the 2015 increase affects our businesses and residents. I'm hoping to engage with the Cities Association of Santa Clara County for next steps."

In addition to creating an ordinance, the council voted to take an advocacy position supporting legislation to increase the current minimum wage or tie future increases to the CPI. The minimum wage ordinance will include no exemptions.

Staff was directed to explore options for both in-house city enforcement of the ordinance as well as contracting enforcement outside of the city.