

A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR INCREASING THE MINIMUM WAGE TO \$10.10 PER HOUR

WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

May 7, 2014

WHEREAS, the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners recognizes the hardships those working for the current minimum wage face in feeding and housing themselves and/or their families; and

WHEREAS, in Washtenaw County, a worker earning the minimum wage of \$7.40 per hour would have to work 77 hours per week, 52 weeks per year to be able to afford a 2-bedroom apartment; and

WHEREAS, the US Census Bureau estimates that 14.6% of Washtenaw County residents live below the poverty level; and

WHEREAS, Washtenaw County's Living Wage Ordinance requires that all employers who hold professional service or service contracts with Washtenaw County pay their employees \$11.64 per hour if the employer provides health care benefits and \$13.65 per hour if the employer does not provide health care benefits; and

WHEREAS, during his visit to Ann Arbor on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, President Obama vocalized the importance of raising the minimum wage for America and particularly Michigan with reference to Henry Ford's success with raising the wage of his employees nearly 100 years ago; and

WHEREAS, President Obama mentioned local favorite Zingerman's Delicatessen and its co-owner Paul Saginaw as a prime example of the ability to be both financially successful and fair to employees; and

WHEREAS, to quote President Obama, "we believe our economy grows best not from the top down, but from the middle out, and from the bottom up paychecks and wages that allow you to support a family...Nobody who works full-time should be raising their family in poverty"; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners hereby voices support for the efforts of President Obama to increase the Federal Minimum Wage to \$10.10 per hour.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners supports the current efforts of legislators and citizen groups to increase Michigan's minimum wage to \$10.10 per hour.