

# Summary of Saint Paul Living Wage Ordinance

## January 2019

The Saint Paul City Council has adopted a new Living Wage Ordinance (File 06-1071). This Ordinance replaces the Living Wage Resolution passed by the Council in 1997 for contracts executed and subsidies given after February 14, 2007.

### Application

- The Ordinance applies to the “City” which includes both the City of Saint Paul and the Housing and Redevelopment Authority of the City of Saint Paul, Minnesota.
- The Ordinance applies to a (a) City Contract which means a contract and any amendments for services not covered by Administrative Code Section 82.07 valued in the aggregate at \$100,000 or more. A City Contract does not include certain contracts of the Parks Department and Office of Financial Services or contract health care benefits.  
(b) City Business Subsidy which means financial assistance with a value of \$100,000 or more in any of the following forms: grant; contribution of personal or real property; reduction in interest rates on a loan which is the present value of the difference in the interest rate given by the City and that rate commercially available to the recipient; reduction or deferral of any tax, assessment or fee; guaranty of any loan, lease or other obligation; tax increment financing; revenue bonds; tax credits; or other City participation. Conduit bonds and infrastructure are not a City Business Subsidy.  
(c) City Subcontract which means a contract for services valued at \$100,000 or more to perform a portion of the services described in a City Contract.  
(d) Tenant which means the initial for-profit or not-for-profit entity or person that leases from a City Business Subsidy recipient space in the specific location for which the subsidy was given, and if there is more than one such initial entity or person, it means the entity or person that leases the greatest amount of space and any entity or person that leases space of 15,000 or more square feet.

### Requirements-Payment of Living Wage

- Any City Contract or City Subcontract must require payment of a living wage for the duration of a contract to each employee who is working pursuant to the contract or subcontract or who is employed in the specific location for which the contract or subcontract is intended to benefit.
- Any recipient of a City Business Subsidy and Tenant must pay a living wage to each employee (and in the case of a Tenant to an independent contractor as well) who is employed in the location for which the subsidy was provided for the longer of the duration of a City Business Subsidy or 3 years.
- A living wage is 130 percent of the federal poverty level for a family of four (**\$16.09 for 2019**) or 110 percent (**\$13.62 for 2019**) if the employer provides basic health insurance as that term is defined in the Ordinance.

### Exemptions:

- Entities- The following entities are exempt from paying a living wage: for-profit entity that qualifies as a small business under Minn Stat 645.445; 501(c) entity that qualifies under Minn Stat 645.445, subd. 2; a recipient of a job readiness and training services contract; a recipient bound by a collective bargaining agreement; an intermediary such as a community development corporation, community investment group or community bank, who serve as a pass-through agency for the assistance; and 501(c) entities that are sole source providers of product or service.
- Employees- A recipient of a City Contract, City Subcontract or City Business Subsidy and a Tenant may request and obtain from the City Council exemptions from paying a living wage to the following types of employees: (a) temporary internships

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intended to provide career exposure to new entrants to the workforce lasting no more than 12 consecutive months; (b) individuals placed as a result of a job readiness or job training program or those persons with serious mental and physical barriers to employment; and (c) seasonal, part-time or temporary employees whose employment does not reduce or offset the work of permanent employees provided that no more than 10 percent of such employees can be exempted and use of such employees is not intended to avoid the requirements of the Ordinance.

### Waiver

- The requirements of the Ordinance may be waived by the City Council or HRA Board prior to the execution of a City Contract or City Business Subsidy after a public hearing and a finding of a compelling public purpose.
- After the execution of a City Business Subsidy a recipient who can demonstrate it will suffer an economic hardship due to the occurrence of significant unforeseen circumstances beyond its control may request a waiver.

### Reporting

- A yearly report on compliance will be required by all recipients for the duration of its obligation to pay living wages.

### Enforcement/Penalties

- PED will enforce the Ordinance with respect to a City Business Subsidy and will propose regulations to the City Council to administer compliance.
- Office of Financial Services will enforce the Ordinance with respect to a City Contract and will propose regulations to the City Council to administer compliance.
- Any recipient of a City Contract, City Business Subsidy, City Subcontract or Tenant must provide written notice to its employees of the Ordinance and a copy of the Ordinance.
- Any recipient that fails to meet the living wage requirements of the Ordinance is not eligible for a City Contract or City Business Subsidy in the next contract cycle or calendar year; and must repay a portion of the contract or subsidy depending on the level of non compliance.

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645.445 Small business; definitions

Subd. 2. Small business. "Small business" means a business entity organized for profit, including but not limited to any individual, partnership, corporation, joint venture, association or cooperative, which entity:

- (a) Is not an affiliate or subsidiary of a business dominant in its field of operation; and
- (b) Has 20 or fewer full-time employees; or
- (c) In the preceding fiscal year has not had more than the equivalent of \$ 1,000,000 in annual gross revenues; or
- (d) If the business is a technical or professional service, shall not have had more than the equivalent of \$ 2,500,000 in annual gross revenues in the preceding fiscal year.

Subd. 3. Dominant in field of operation. "Dominant in its field of operation" means having more than 20 full-time employees and more than \$ 1,000,000 in annual gross revenues or \$ 2,500,000 in annual gross revenues if a technical or professional service.

Subd. 4. Affiliate or subsidiary of business dominant in field of operation. "Affiliate or subsidiary of a business dominant in its field of operation" means a business which is at least 20 percent owned by a business dominant in its field of operation, or by partners, officers, directors, majority stockholders, or their equivalent, of a business dominant in that field of operation.

**ORDINANCE  
CITY OF SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA**

Presented By \_\_\_\_\_

An ordinance adding  
Chapter 98 to the  
Saint Paul Administrative Code  
for the purpose of establishing Saint Paul’s Living Wage Requirements

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAINT PAUL DOES ORDAIN

Section 1

Chapter 98 of the Saint Paul Administrative Code is hereby amended to include the following new chapter:

**Chapter 98. Living Wage**

**Sec. 98.01. SHORT TITLE.**

This Ordinance shall be called the “Saint Paul Living Wage and Responsible Public Spending Ordinance.”

**Sec. 98.02. PURPOSE.**

Recognizing that the City awards business subsidies and is a major contractor for services, the City enacts this Ordinance to promote the creation and retention of living wages and full time positions, and to increase the wages of service employees and employees whose employers are subsidized by the City or whose employer enters into a contract with the City in order to improve public health and welfare, promote the economic strength of the City, and reduce the pressure on governmental services and programs. Nothing in this Chapter shall abrogate or modify any rights or obligations specified in Chapter 85 of the Saint Paul Administrative Code.

41  
42 **Sec. 98.03. DEFINITIONS.**  
43

- 44 A. “Basic health insurance” means (1) an insurance or self-insured group health plan  
45 [including any federally approved self-funded plan established under the Employee](#)  
46 [Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 \(ERISA\) as amended](#) where an employer  
47 pays at least seventy-five (75) percent of the premium for individual coverage  
48 plus fifty (50) percent of the premium for family coverage; deductibles and out-of-  
49 pocket maximums cannot be greater than those allowed by the Internal Revenue  
50 Service for Health Reimbursement Arrangements and plan design must meet the  
51 minimum required by Health Reimbursement Arrangements and State Law (2) a  
52 deductible insurance plan offered by an employer where in-network deductibles  
53 do not exceed twenty-five (25) percent for office visits, inpatient care, outpatient  
54 care and/or urgent/emergency care, there is a one thousand five hundred dollars  
55 (\$1,500.00) out of pocket maximum for individual and three thousand dollars  
56 (\$3,000.00) out of pocket maximum for family, and any out-of-network  
57 deductible plan's out-of-pocket maximum does not exceed two thousand dollars  
58 (\$2,000.00) for individual and four thousand dollars (\$4,000.00) for family; or (3)  
59 an employer offers a health plan not less in value than that provided to first level  
60 supervisory employees provided that the benefit costs employers a minimum of  
61 seventy-five (75) percent of the difference between one hundred ten (110) percent  
62 and one hundred thirty (130) percent of the federal poverty level for a family of  
63 four (4).  
64
- 65 B. “City” means the City of Saint Paul and the Housing and Redevelopment  
66 Authority of the City of Saint Paul, Minnesota.  
67
- 68 C. “City Contractor” means a for-profit or not-for-profit entity or person that is a  
69 party to a City Contract.  
70
- 71 D. “City Contract” means a contract for services and any amendments thereto  
72 between the City and City Contractor not covered by Section 82.07 of the  
73 Administrative Code with the City valued in the aggregate at \$100,000 or more. A  
74 City Contract does not include (a) a contract whereby the City Contractor  
75 manages City owned land and/or improvements on behalf of the City’s parks  
76 department and the City Contractor pays a portion of the revenues to the City or  
77 (b) a contract whereby the City Contractor provides depository and/or financial  
78 services to the City, or (c) a contract whereby the City Contractor provides  
79 contract health care benefits to city employees. Nothing in this Chapter shall  
80 abrogate or modify any rights or obligations specified in Chapter 85 of the City’s  
81 Administrative Code.  
82
- 83 E. “City Business Subsidy” means any of the following extended by the City to a  
84 recipient with a value of \$100,000 or more: (a) a grant, (b) a contribution of  
85 personal property, (c) a contribution of real property, (d) with respect to a loan  
86 given by the City, the present value of the difference in the interest rate given by  
87 the City and that rate commercially available to the recipient, (e) any reduction or  
88 deferral of any tax, assessment or fee, (f) any guarantee of any payment under  
89 any loan, lease, or other obligation, (g) tax increment financing, (h) the issuance  
90 of revenue bonds, (i) tax credits, or (j) other City participation. Conduit bonds  
91 and infrastructure are not a City Business Subsidy.

- 92  
93 F. “City Business Subsidy Recipient” means a for-profit or not-for-profit entity that  
94 receives a City Business Subsidy.  
95  
96 G. “City Subcontract” means a contract for services between a City Contractor and  
97 City Subcontractor valued at \$100,000 or more to perform a portion of the  
98 services described in a City Contract.  
99  
100 H. “City Subcontractor” means a for-profit or not-for-profit entity or person that is a  
101 party to a City Subcontract.  
102  
103 I. “Job readiness and training services” means services whose purpose and intent is  
104 to help individuals establish a stable work history by addressing the social and  
105 economic barriers to employability, including training, apprenticeship, and  
106 adequate day care.  
107  
108 J. “Sole source” means a source of products or services that is the only viable  
109 market option for the City.  
110  
111 K. “Tenant” means the initial for-profit or not-for-profit entity or person that leases  
112 from a City Business Subsidy Recipient space in the specific location for which  
113 the City Business Subsidy was provided, or if there is more than one such initial  
114 entity or person then it means the entity or person that leases the greatest amount  
115 of space and any entity or person that leases space of 15,000 or more square  
116 feet.  
117  
118 L. “Tenant Subcontractor” means a person, other than an employee of a Tenant, who  
119 performs services at the specific location for which the City Business Subsidy  
120 was provided under a contract between that person or that person’s employer and  
121 a Tenant.  
122

123 **Sec. 98.04. . LIVING WAGE/JOB CREATION AND RETENTION**

124  
125 A. PAYMENT OF LIVING WAGE

- 126  
127 1. City Contract; City Subcontract. Any City Contract, or City Subcontract  
128 must require City Contractors and City Subcontractors to pay an hourly  
129 wage that is at least the living wage for the duration of the contract to each  
130 employee who is working pursuant to the City Contract or City  
131 Subcontract or who is employed in the specific location for which the City  
132 Contract or City Subcontract is intended to benefit.  
133  
134 2. City Business Subsidy. Any City Business Subsidy Recipient and Tenant  
135 must agree to pay an hourly rate that is at least the living wage to each  
136 employee who is employed in the location for which the City Business  
137 Subsidy was provided and a Tenant must pay at least a living wage to each  
138 Tenant Subcontractor for the longer of the following: (a) the duration of  
139 the City Business Subsidy Agreement, or (b) three years.  
140

141 B. CALCULATION OF LIVING WAGE

142  
143 The living wage shall be a wage level equivalent to at least 130 percent of the federal  
144 poverty level for a family of four. For employers that provide employees basic health  
145 insurance, the living wage shall be a wage level equivalent to at least 110 percent of the  
146 federal poverty level for a family of four. The living wage shall be based on the then  
147 current federal poverty level and shall be adjusted within one week after the federal  
148 government adjusts the rate.

149  
150 C. JOB CREATION AND RETENTION

151  
152 A City Business Subsidy Recipient must enter into a City Business Subsidy agreement  
153 with the City that includes:

- 154  
155 (1) a description of the subsidy;  
156 (2) a statement of the public purpose for the subsidy;  
157 (3) goals for the number of jobs created and/or retained; and  
158 (4) wage goals for any jobs created and/or retained.

159  
160 D. APPROVAL OF CITY CONTRACT AND CITY BUSINESS SUBSIDY

161  
162 All City Contracts and City Business Subsidies must be approved by the Saint Paul City  
163 Council and/or the Board of Commissioners of the Housing and Redevelopment Authority of the  
164 City of Saint Paul, Minnesota by a resolution approving a budget or the City Contract or City  
165 Business Subsidy.

166  
167 E. EXEMPTIONS

- 168  
169 1. Entities. The following entities are exempt from the living wage requirement:  
170  
171 a. any incorporated entity, organized for profit, that falls within the definition  
172 of a small business under Minnesota Statute 645.445;  
173  
174 b. any 501 (c) entity which falls under the criteria laid out in Minnesota  
175 Statute 645.445, subdivision 2;  
176  
177 c. a recipient of a City Contract, City Business Subsidy or City Subcontract  
178 that contains an express provision that the purpose of the contract or  
179 subsidy is job readiness and training services and that the recipient is  
180 exempt from the living wage requirement;  
181  
182 d. any recipient of a City Contract, City Business Subsidy or City  
183 Subcontract for whom the City Council determines that application of the  
184 living wage requirement would conflict with a state or federal law or  
185 program requirement;  
186  
187 e. any recipient of a City Contract, City Business Subsidy or City  
188 Subcontract which is bound by a collective bargaining agreement for the  
189 period of the contract or the subsidy;

- 190 f. any recipient that is an intermediary, such as a community development  
191 corporation, community investment group, or community bank, which  
192 serves as a pass-through agency for the granting of assistance;  
193  
194 g. 501 (c) entities that are sole source providers of product or service.  
195

196 2. Employees.  
197

198 a. A recipient of a City Contract, City Subcontract, or City Business Subsidy and a Tenant may  
199 request and obtain exemptions from the living wage requirements for the following types of  
200 employees:  
201

202 1. Temporary internships or similar positions that are intended to provide career  
203 exposure to new entrants to the workforce, lasting no more than 12 consecutive months;

204 2. Individuals who are placed with the employer as the result of a job readiness or job  
205 training program or who are participants in an employment program that provides work  
206 opportunities for those with serious mental and physical barriers to employment or similar  
207 employer sponsored work opportunity program for individuals with serious mental and physical  
208 barriers to employment;

209 3. Seasonal, part-time or temporary employees whose employment does not reduce or  
210 offset the work of permanent employees, on the conditions that (a) no more than ten percent  
211 (10%) of such seasonal, part-time or temporary employees can be exempted, and (b) that the City  
212 Contractor, City Subcontractor or City Business Subsidy Recipient is not intending to utilize  
213 such labor to avoid the requirements of this ordinance.  
214

215 F. ENFORCEMENT  
216

217 1. Any recipient of a City Contract or City Subcontract that fails to meet the  
218 living wage requirements of this Ordinance at any time during the duration  
219 of the contract, and any City Business Subsidy Recipient that fails to meet  
220 the living wage or wage goals and other requirements of this Ordinance at  
221 any time during the duration of the subsidy, shall (a) not be eligible for a  
222 City Business Subsidy or City Contract in the next contract cycle or the  
223 next calendar year; and (b) shall repay to the city an amount determined as  
224 follows: the entire value of the contract or subsidy if compliance is less  
225 than 50% of the requirement, one-half of the value of the contract or  
226 subsidy if compliance is 50% or more but less than 80% of the  
227 requirement, and proportionate to the value of the contract or subsidy if  
228 compliance is 80% or more but less than 100% of the requirement.  
229

230 2. No City Contractor, City Subcontractor City Business Subsidy Recipient  
231 or Tenant shall discharge, demote, harass, or otherwise take adverse action  
232 against any individual because such individual seeks enforcement of the  
233 living wage requirement or testifies, assists, or participates in any manner  
234 in an investigation, hearing, or other proceeding to enforce this Ordinance.  
235

236 3. No City Contractor, City Subcontractor City Business Subsidy Recipient  
237 or Tenant shall split or subdivide a contract or subsidy, pay an employee  
238 through a third party, or treat an employee as a subcontractor or  
239 independent contractor to avoid payment of a living wage.  
240

241 4. This Ordinance shall be enforced by the Department of Planning and  
242 Economic Development, or its successor agency, with respect to a City  
243 Business Subsidy, which shall propose regulations for Council approval as  
244 are necessary to implement and administer compliance with the City  
245 Business Subsidy. This Ordinance shall be enforced by the Office of  
246 Financial Services or its successor agency, with respect to a City Contract,  
247 which shall propose regulations for Council approval as are necessary to  
248 implement and administer compliance with the City Contract.  
249 Enforcement shall include but not be limited to receiving, investigating  
250 and attempting to resolve complaints by employees and Tenant  
251 Subcontractors.

252  
253 5. Any recipient of a City Contract or City Business Subsidy or City  
254 Subcontract or Tenant shall provide written notice to its employees that  
255 they may be covered by the terms of this Ordinance as specified in section  
256 98.04 (A) and shall also provide its employees a written copy of this  
257 Ordinance.

258

259 **Sec. 98.05. APPLICATION.**

260

261 This Ordinance shall apply to any City Contract, City Subcontract or City Business Subsidy  
262 executed after the effective date of this Ordinance.

263

264 **Sec. 98.06 SEVERABILITY.**

265

266 If any provision or application of this Ordinance is declared illegal, invalid, or inoperative, in  
267 whole or in part, by any court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining provisions and portions  
268 thereof and applications not declared illegal, invalid, or inoperative shall remain in force or  
269 effect.

270

271 **Sec. 98.07. WAIVER FOR CITY BUSINESS SUBSIDY.**

272

273 **A. PRIOR TO EXECUTION OF CITY BUSINESS SUBSIDY AGREEMENT**

274

275 The requirements of this Ordinance may be waived in whole or in part by the City Council or  
276 HRA Board of Commissioners prior to the execution of a City Contract or City Business Subsidy  
277 agreement after a public hearing, consideration of both advantages and disadvantages of a  
278 waiver, and upon a finding of a compelling public purpose.

279

280 **B. AFTER EXECUTION OF CITY BUSINESS SUBSIDY AGREEMENT**

281

282 Any City Business Subsidy Recipient who can demonstrate that it will suffer an economic  
283 hardship due to the occurrence of significant unforeseen circumstances beyond the control of the  
284 City Business Subsidy Recipient that have occurred subsequent to the City Business Subsidy  
285 agreement may request a waiver from the requirements of this Act and such waiver may be given  
286 by the City Council or HRA Board of Commissioners.

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290  
291  
292

Section 2

This Ordinance adding Administrative Code Chapter 98 shall become effective thirty (30) days after passage, approval and publication as provided in the City Charter, Section 6.11.

	Yeas	Nays	Absent
Benanav			
Bostrom			
Harris			
Helgen			
Lantry			
Montgomery			
Thune			

Requested by Department of:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Form Approved by City Attorney

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Adopted by Council: Date \_\_\_\_\_

Adoption Certified by Council Secretary

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved by Mayor: Date \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Form Approved by Mayor for Submission to Council

By: \_\_\_\_\_