

City of Portland passes \$15 minimum for its contracted service workers

Portland City Council voted Feb. 18 to approve a \$15-an-hour minimum wage for about 150 janitors, security guards, and parking lot attendants at city-owned facilities. That makes the City the third local government body in Oregon to set a \$15 wage floor for at least some workers, following the Home Forward housing agency and Multnomah County.

The resolution — approved unanimously by City Council — is an update to the City's Fair Wage policy, a 19-year-old ordinance setting minimum wage and benefit levels for workers at certain city service contractors. The levels are currently \$10.38 an hour plus \$1.92 an hour for benefits. The newly passed resolution raises the hourly wage to \$15 as of July 1, 2015.

The resolution also sets a \$15 minimum for the City's own employees who are in full-time, budgeted positions, though less than two dozen currently make less than that.

The Portland Bureau of Parks and Recreation, however, has hundreds of part-time, seasonal, and temporary workers who are not covered by the new \$15 minimum. Workers there are represented by Laborers Local 483.

To address that, the resolution authorizes a task force with members appointed by the mayor and each commissioner to "assess seasonal, recreational and apprenticeship work with appropriate compensation." The task force is supposed to complete its work in time for the

City Council to use the recommendations in the 2016-2017 budget process.

The \$15 minimum resolution was sponsored by Commissioner Dan Saltzman, and co-

sponsored by Mayor Charlie Hales. Laborers Local 483, Service

Employees Local 49 and other groups have campaigned in support of the ordinance.



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Teamsters ratify 4-year contract at AMR

Members of Teamsters Portland Local 223 and Vancouver Local 58 ratified a new four-year collective bargaining agreement at American Medical Response (AMR). The 450-member bargaining unit provides ambulance service to Multnomah and Clackamas counties in Oregon, and Clark and Cowlitz counties in Washington.

The agreement is retroactive to July 1, 2014, when the old pact expired. The new pact runs through June 30, 2018.

Local 223 union rep Dave Tully said the contract preserves health care benefits and cost-of-living wage increases.

AMR has been union since 1989.



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