

Living Wage Add-On

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By Tim McClain

To the cheers of members of the Center on Policy Initiatives, the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council, and the Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice, the San Diego City Council on Monday unanimously strengthened the 2005 living wage law.

The groups were particularly pleased with changes that stipulate the law applies to any contract awarded through privatization -- privatization of city services is a priority of Mayor Sanders -- and a clarification that it applies to the Civic Theatre and its about 175 employees.

Revisions also include whistleblower protection for an employee who reports a living wage violation.

The Center for Policy Initiatives says the inflation-indexed living wage is now \$12.70 an hour, including health care coverage or a differential to buy health insurance.