

ORDINANCE NO. 1175

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COACHELLA, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING THE COACHELLA MUNICIPAL CODE BY ADDING CHAPTER 5.100, RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL, GROCERY, RESTAURANT, AND RETAIL PHARMACY WORKERS IN COACHELLA, AND ESTABLISHING LABOR STANDARDS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR PREMIUM PAY FOR AGRICULTURAL, GROCERY, RESTAURANT, AND RETAIL PHARMACY WORKERS WORKING IN COACHELLA

WHEREAS, the new coronavirus 19 (“COVID-19”) disease is caused by a virus that spreads easily from person to person and may result in serious illness or death, and is classified by the World Health Organization (“WHO”) as a worldwide pandemic; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has broadly spread throughout California and remains a significant health risk to the community, especially members of our most vulnerable populations; and

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, California Governor Gavin Newsom proclaimed a state of emergency in response to new cases of COVID-19, directing state agencies to use all resources necessary to prepare for and respond to the outbreak; and

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2020, the City Manager, as the City’s Director of Emergency Services, proclaimed the existence of a local emergency to ensure the availability of mutual aid and an effective the City’s response to COVID-19 and on March 25, 2020 the City Council ratified the proclamation; and

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2020, California Governor Gavin Newsom issued a “Stay Home – Stay Healthy” proclamation closing all non-essential workplaces, requiring people to stay home except to participate in essential activities or to provide essential business services, and banning all gatherings for social, spiritual, and recreational purposes. In addition to healthcare, public health and emergency services, the “Stay Home – Stay Healthy” proclamation identified agricultural, grocery, restaurant, and retail pharmacy stores as essential business sectors critical to protecting the health and well-being of all Californians and designated their workers as essential critical infrastructure workers; and

WHEREAS, on December 3, 2020, Governor Newsom extended the “Stay Home – Stay Healthy” proclamation; and

WHEREAS, as of January 28, 2021, the WHO Situation Report reported a global total of 100,455,529 cases of COVID-19, including 2,166,440 deaths; California reported 3,200,000 cases of COVID-19, including 38,927 deaths; and Coachella has reported 7,347 cases of COVID-19, including 67 deaths; and

WHEREAS, agricultural operations, grocery stores, restaurants, and retail pharmacy stores are essential businesses operating in Coachella during the COVID-19 emergency making

agricultural, grocery, restaurant, and retail pharmacy workers highly vulnerable to economic insecurity and health or safety risks; and

WHEREAS, agricultural, grocery, restaurant, and retail pharmacy workers are essential workers who perform services that are fundamental to the economy and health of the community during the COVID-19 crisis. They work in high risk conditions with inconsistent access to protective equipment and other safety measures; work in public situations with limited ability to engage in physical distancing; and continually expose themselves and the public to the spread of disease; and

WHEREAS, premium pay, paid in addition to regular wages, is an established type of compensation for employees performing hazardous duty or work involving physical hardship that can cause extreme physical discomfort and distress; and

WHEREAS, agricultural, grocery, restaurant, and retail pharmacy workers working during the COVID-19 emergency merit additional compensation because they are performing hazardous duty due to the significant risk of exposure to the COVID-19 virus. Agricultural, grocery, restaurant, and retail pharmacy workers have been working under these hazardous conditions for months. They are working in these hazardous conditions now and will continue to face safety risks as the virus presents an ongoing threat for an uncertain period, potentially resulting in subsequent waves of infection; and

WHEREAS, the availability of agricultural, grocery, restaurant, and retail pharmacy stores is fundamental to the health of the community and is made possible during the COVID-19 emergency because agricultural, grocery, restaurant, and retail pharmacy workers are on the frontlines of this devastating pandemic supporting public health, safety, and welfare by working in hazardous situations; and

WHEREAS, establishing an immediate requirement for agricultural, grocery, restaurant, and retail pharmacy stores to provide premium pay to agricultural, grocery, restaurant, and retail pharmacy workers protects public health, supports stable incomes, and promotes job retention by ensuring that grocery and retail pharmacy workers are compensated for the substantial risks, efforts, and expenses they are undertaking to provide essential services in a safe and reliable manner during the COVID-19 emergency.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COACHELLA DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The recitals set forth above are true and correct and are hereby adopted as findings in support of this Ordinance as if fully set forth herein..

SECTION 2. **Addition to Coachella Municipal Code.** Chapter 5.100 *Premium Pay for Agricultural, Grocery, Restaurant, and Retail Pharmacy Workers* is hereby added to the Coachella Municipal Code as follows:

“CHAPTER 5.100

PREMIUM PAY FOR AGRICULTURAL, GROCERY, RESTAURANT, AND RETAIL PHARMACY WORKERS

5.100.005 Purpose.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, this Ordinance aims to protect and promote the public health, safety, and welfare during the new coronavirus 19 (“COVID-19”) emergency by requiring agricultural, grocery, restaurant, and retail pharmacy stores to provide premium pay for agricultural, grocery, restaurant, and retail pharmacy workers performing work in Coachella. Requiring agricultural, grocery, restaurant, and retail pharmacy stores to provide premium pay to agricultural, grocery, restaurant, and retail pharmacy workers compensates agricultural, grocery, restaurant, and retail pharmacy workers for the risks of working during a pandemic. Agricultural, grocery, restaurant, and retail pharmacy workers face magnified risks of catching or spreading the COVID-19 disease because the nature of their work involves close contact with the public, including members of the public who are not showing symptoms of COVID-19 but who can spread the disease. The provision of premium pay better ensures the retention of these essential workers who are on the frontlines of this pandemic providing essential services and who are needed throughout the duration of the COVID-19 emergency. As such, they are deserving of fair and equitable compensation for their work.

5.100.010 Short title.

This Ordinance shall constitute the “Premium Pay for Agricultural, Grocery, Restaurant, and Retail Pharmacy Workers Ordinance” and may be cited as such.

5.100.020 Definitions.

For purposes of this Ordinance:

“Adverse action” means reducing the compensation to a designated worker, garnishing gratuities, temporarily or permanently denying or limiting access to work, incentives, or bonuses, offering less desirable work, demoting, terminating, deactivating, putting a designated worker on hold status, failing to rehire after a seasonal interruption of work, threatening, penalizing, retaliating, or otherwise discriminating against a designated worker for any reason prohibited by Section 5.100.090. “Adverse action” also encompasses any action by the hiring entity or a person acting on the hiring entity’s behalf that would dissuade a designated worker from exercising any right afforded by this Ordinance.

“Aggrieved party” means a designated worker or other person who suffers tangible or intangible harm due to a hiring entity or other person’s violation of this Ordinance.

“Agricultural operation” means any operation devoted to the bona fide production of crops, or animals, or fowl including the production and/or packing of fruits and vegetables of all kinds; meat, dairy, and poultry products; nuts, tobacco, nursery, and floral products; and the production and harvest of products from silviculture (i.e., growing/cultivating trees) activity.

“Agricultural worker” means a worker whose principal employment is in agriculture (including farming; cultivating and tilling the soil; producing, cultivating, growing, irrigating, harvesting any commodity grown on the land; preparing, processing, packing for market and delivery to storage or to market or to carriers for transportation to market any commodity grown in or on the land), and includes migratory agricultural workers and seasonal agricultural workers. Agricultural worker does not include managers, or supervisors.

“City” means the City of Coachella.

“Designated worker” means an agricultural worker, grocery store worker, restaurant worker, retail pharmacy worker employed directly by a hiring entity who is entitled to premium pay pursuant to this Ordinance.

“Grocery worker” means a worker employed directly by a hiring entity at a grocery store. Grocery worker does not include managers, supervisors, or confidential employees.

“Grocery store” means a store that devotes seventy percent (70%) or more of its business to retailing a general range of food products, which may be fresh or packaged. There is a rebuttable presumption that if a store receives seventy percent (70%) or more revenue from retailing a general range of food products, then it qualifies as a grocery store.

“Hiring entity” means an agricultural operation, grocery store, restaurant, or retail pharmacy that employs over three hundred (300) designated workers nationally and employs more than five (5) employees per agricultural operation location, grocery store location, restaurant location, or retail pharmacy location in the City of Coachella.

“Premium pay” means additional compensation owed to a designated worker that is separate from hiring entity payments for providing services, bonuses, and commissions, as well as tips earned from customers.

“Respondent” means an agricultural operation, grocery store, restaurant, retail pharmacy, parent company or any person who is alleged or found to have committed a violation of this Ordinance.

“Restaurant” means a building or place the principal purpose of which is the preparation and serving, on a retail basis, of food and drink to people for consumption on the premises, and where take away meals and drinks or entertainment are also provided.

“Restaurant worker” means a worker employed directly by a hiring entity at a restaurant. Restaurant worker does not include managers, supervisors, or confidential employees.

“Retail pharmacy” means a corporate or chain pharmacy that is licensed as a pharmacy by the State of California and that dispenses medications to the general public at retail prices. Such term does not include a pharmacy that dispenses prescription medications to patients primarily through the mail, nursing home pharmacies, long-term

care facility pharmacies, hospital pharmacies, clinics, charitable or not-for-profit pharmacies, government pharmacies, or pharmacy benefit managers.

“Retail pharmacy worker” means a worker employed directly by a hiring entity at a retail pharmacy. Retail pharmacy worker does not include managers, supervisors, or confidential employees.

5.100.030 Designated worker coverage.

For the purposes of this Ordinance, covered designated workers are limited to those who perform work for a hiring entity where the work is performed in the City of Coachella.

5.100.040 Hiring entity coverage.

A. For purposes of this Ordinance, hiring entities are limited to those who employ three hundred (300) or more designated workers nationally and employ more than five (5) employees per agricultural operation, grocery store, restaurant, or retail pharmacy location in the City of Coachella.

B. To determine the number of designated workers employed for the current calendar year:

1. The calculation is based upon the average number per calendar week of workers who worked for compensation during the preceding calendar year for any and all weeks during which at least one (1) designated worker worked for compensation. For hiring entities that did not have any designated workers during the preceding calendar year, the number of designated workers employed for the current calendar year is calculated based upon the average number per calendar week of designated workers who worked for compensation during the first ninety (90) calendar days of the current year in which the hiring entity engaged in business.

2. All designated workers who worked for compensation shall be counted, including but not limited to:

(a) Agricultural workers, grocery workers, restaurant workers, and retail pharmacy workers who are not covered by this Ordinance; and

(b) Designated workers who worked in Coachella.

5.100.050 Premium pay requirement.

A. Hiring entities shall provide each designated worker with premium pay consisting of an additional Four Dollars (\$4.00) per hour for each hour worked.

B. Hiring entities shall provide the pay required by Subsection 5.100.050 (A) for a minimum of one hundred twenty (120) days retroactive to February 10, 2021, the date that the City of Coachella adopted the related Urgency Ordinance.

C. The terms of this Section shall be in effect for one hundred twenty (120) days following adoption of the February 10, 2021 related Urgency Ordinance.

5.100.060 Designated worker and consumer protections.

A. No hiring entity shall, as a result of this Ordinance going into effect, take any of the following actions:

1. Reduce a designated worker's compensation;
2. Limit a designated worker's earning capacity.

B. It shall be a violation if this Ordinance is a motivating factor in a hiring entity's decision to take any of the actions in Subsection 5.100.060 (A) unless the hiring entity can prove that its decision to take the action(s) would have happened in the absence of this Ordinance going into effect.

5.100.070 Notice of rights.

A. Hiring entities shall provide covered designated workers with a written notice of rights established by this Ordinance. The notice of rights shall be in a form and manner sufficient to inform designated workers of their rights under this Ordinance. The notice of rights shall provide information on:

1. The right to premium pay guaranteed by this Ordinance;
2. The right to be protected from retaliation for exercising in good faith the rights protected by this Ordinance; and
3. The right to bring a civil action for a violation of the requirements of this Ordinance, including a hiring entity's denial of premium pay as required by this Ordinance and a hiring entity or other person's retaliation against a covered designated worker or other person for asserting the right to premium pay or otherwise engaging in an activity protected by this Ordinance.

B. Hiring entities shall provide the notice of rights required by posting a written notice of rights in a location of the agricultural operation, grocery store, restaurant, or retail pharmacy location utilized by employees for breaks, and in an electronic format that is readily accessible to the designated workers. The notice of rights shall be made available to the designated workers via smartphone application or an online web portal, in English and any language that the hiring entity knows or has reason to know is the primary language of the designated worker(s).

5.100.080 Hiring entity records.

A. Hiring entities shall retain records that document compliance with this Ordinance for covered designated workers.

B. Hiring entities shall retain the records required by Subsection 5.100.080 (A) for a period of two (2) years.

C. If a hiring entity fails to retain adequate records required under Subsection 5.100.080 (A), there shall be a presumption, rebuttable by clear and convincing evidence, that the hiring entity violated this Ordinance for each covered designated worker for whom records were not retained.

5.100.090 Retaliation prohibited.

No hiring entity employing a designated worker shall discharge, reduce in compensation, or otherwise discriminate against any designated worker for opposing any practice proscribed by this Ordinance, for participating in proceedings related to this Ordinance, for seeking to exercise their rights under this Ordinance by any lawful means, or for otherwise asserting rights under this Ordinance.

5.100.100 Violation.

The failure of any respondent to comply with any requirement imposed on the respondent under this Ordinance is a violation.

5.100.110 Remedies.

A. The payment of unpaid compensation, liquidated damages, civil penalties, penalties payable to aggrieved parties, fines, and interest provided under this Ordinance is cumulative and is not intended to be exclusive of any other available remedies, penalties, fines, and procedures.

B. A respondent found to be in violation of this Ordinance for retaliation under Section 5.100.090 shall be subject to any appropriate relief at law or equity including, but not limited to reinstatement of the aggrieved party, front pay in lieu of reinstatement with full payment of unpaid compensation plus interest in favor of the aggrieved party under the terms of this Ordinance, and liquidated damages in an additional amount of up to twice the unpaid compensation.

5.100.120 Private right of action.

A. Any covered designated worker that suffers financial injury as a result of a violation of this Ordinance, or is the subject of prohibited retaliation under Section 5.100.090, may bring a civil action in a court of competent jurisdiction against the hiring entity or other person violating this Ordinance and, upon prevailing, may be awarded reasonable attorney fees and costs and such legal or equitable relief as may be appropriate to remedy the violation including, without limitation: the payment of any unpaid compensation plus interest due to the person and liquidated damages in an additional amount of up to twice the unpaid compensation; and a reasonable penalty payable to any aggrieved party if the aggrieved party was subject to prohibited retaliation.

5.100.130 Encouragement of more generous policies.

A. Nothing in this Ordinance shall be construed to discourage or prohibit a hiring entity from the adoption or retention of premium pay policies more generous than the one required herein.

B. Nothing in this Ordinance shall be construed as diminishing the obligation of a hiring entity to comply with any contract or other agreement providing more generous protections to a designated worker than required by this Ordinance.

5.100.140 Other legal requirements.

This Ordinance provides minimum requirements for premium pay while working for a hiring entity during the COVID-19 emergency and shall not be construed to preempt, limit, or otherwise affect the applicability of any other law, regulation, requirement, policy, or standard that provides for higher premium pay, or that extends other protections to designated workers; and nothing in this Ordinance shall be interpreted or applied so as to create any power or duty in conflict with federal or state law. Nothing in this Section shall be construed as restricting a designated worker's right to pursue any other remedies at law or equity for violation of their rights.

5.100.150 Severability.

The provisions of this Ordinance are declared to be separate and severable. If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section, subsection, or portion of this Ordinance, or the application thereof to any hiring entity, designated worker, person, or circumstance, is held to be invalid, it shall not affect the validity of the remainder of this Ordinance, or the validity of its application to other persons or circumstances.

5.100.160 Exemption for collective bargaining agreement.

All of the provisions of this Ordinance, or any part thereof, may be expressly waived in a collective bargaining agreement, but only if the waiver is explicitly set forth in the agreement in clear and unambiguous terms. Unilateral implementation of terms and conditions of employment by either party to a collective bargaining relationship shall not constitute a waiver of all or any of the provisions of this Ordinance.

5.100.170 No waiver of rights.

Except for a collective bargaining agreement provision made pursuant to Section 5.100.160, any waiver by a designated worker of any or all provisions of this Ordinance shall be deemed contrary to public policy and shall be void and unenforceable. Other than in connection with the bona fide negotiation of a collective bargaining agreement, any request by a hiring entity to a designated worker to waive rights given by this Ordinance shall be a violation of this Ordinance.

SECTION 3. CEQA. The City Council determines that the adoption of this Ordinance is exempt from environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act

(“CEQA”) pursuant to the following provisions of the CEQA Guidelines, 14 California Code of Regulations, Chapter 3: this Ordinance is exempt under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5) in that it is not a “project” under CEQA, and will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

SECTION 4. Severability. If any section or provision of this Ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, or contravened by reason of any preemptive legislation, the remaining sections and/or provisions of this Ordinance shall remain valid. The City Council hereby declares that it would have adopted this Ordinance, and each section or provision thereof, regardless of the fact that any one or more section(s) or provision(s) may be declared invalid or unconstitutional or contravened via legislation.

SECTION 5. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall become effective thirty (30) days following its adoption.

SECTION 6. Publication. The City Clerk shall certify to the adoption of this Ordinance. Not later than fifteen (15) days following the passage of this Ordinance, the Ordinance, or a summary thereof, along with the names of the City Council members voting for and against the Ordinance, shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the City.

PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED this 24th day of February 2021.

Steven A. Hernandez
Mayor

ATTEST:

Angela M. Zepeda
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Carlos Campos
City Attorney

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE) ss.
CITY OF COACHELLA)

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Amendment to Ordinance No 1175 was duly and regularly introduced at a meeting of the City Council on the 10th day of February 2021, and that thereafter the said ordinance amendment was duly passed and adopted on the 24th day of February 2021.

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Andrea J. Carranza, MMC
Deputy City Clerk