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To: "Hawkins, Dennis (Clerk)" <Dennis.Hawkins@sanjoseca.gov>, "Taber, Toni" <toni.taber@sanjoseca.gov>

Subject: Memo: Minimum Wage Initiative

To: Honorable Mayor and City Council

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Day: May 22, 2012

From: Elisha St. Laurent, SJSU '13, Sociology & Behavior Science student
Dr. Scott Myers-Lipton, SJSU Sociology professor

As a student and faculty representative of the campus group that helped initiate the campaign to increase the minimum wage in San Jose, we felt compelled to respond to City Manager Debra Figone's memorandum on May 18, 2012, so as to clarify the record.

In her May 18, 2012 memorandum, City Manager Figone claims that the City Clerk's 9212 Report on the Minimum Wage Initiative notes that there are "a limited number of peer reviewed research papers and analysis reports available relating to the adoption of local minimum wages and the direct and indirect affect on employment and business." The 9212 Report does not say this. What the City Clerk's 9212 Report does say is that a study was conducted on San Francisco's city-wide minimum wage and it showed that wages rose while employment did not change. The 9212 Report also states that a study was conducted on Santa Fe's city-wide minimum wage ordinance and that it showed no significant change in employment.

In addition, City Manager Figone stated in her memorandum that City Staff had a "limited window to conduct outreach and engagement" since May 1st, when the City Council accepted the Certificate of Sufficiency showing that the minimum wage initiative had gathered enough signatures to proceed. What City Manager Figone did not mention is that City Staff could have begun conducting outreach and engagement on February 16, 2012. According to Election Code 9212 (a), "During the circulation of the petition, or before taking either action described in subdivisions (a) and (b) of Section 9214, or Section 9215, the legislative body may refer the proposed initiative measure to any city agency or agencies for a report." Thus, outreach and engagement to the community could have started on February 16th, the day we began circulating the petitions, rather than on May 1st.