



## **Living Wage Commission Minutes February 26, 2020**

Commissioners Present: Merle Showers, Anna Falicov, Bob Mahoney, Erin Hatton, Bernadette Giles

Others Present: Sam Magavern

### **This Year's Meetings.**

- Meetings will start at 9am, not 8:30am
- Meeting Dates:
  - May 12
  - August 11
  - November 10

**New Commissioner.** Mayor Brown has designated Anna Falicov to serve as a commissioner.

**Compliance Report.** Most of our 25 employers are in compliance with quarterly reporting. On February 25, we sent reminder emails to Amherst Security, Belmont Shelter, Gardenville Landscaping, Mollyworld, and US Security. We sent letters to Back to Basics, M&T Brokerage, Smith Boys, South Buffalo Auto Parts, and a certified letter to GS4 Security. Mollyworld replied that they closed in September and are not renewing their contracts with the City for the Hatch and William Ks.

**CEO** has been sending quarterly reports but reporting less than a living wage. We are in contact with their lawyer to resolve it.

**Spectrum Cable.** On February 7, we wrote to Spectrum indicating that their current franchise agreement is covered by the law and asking them to come into compliance. We have not heard back. We will write again indicating that the LWC will hold a hearing to consider the matter if they do not get in touch.

**Liberty Hound/The Terrace.** We wrote to Magnolia Events on February 6, reminding them that Liberty Hound (which subleases from Buffalo Naval Park) and the Terrace (which subleases from Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy). We have not heard back. We will write again indicating that the LWC will hold a hearing to consider the matter if they do not get in touch.

**Buffalo Naval Park.** We considered Buffalo Naval Park's letter of January 29, 2020 to Mayor Brown requesting a partial exemption for seasonals. Commissioners voted unanimously to recommend that the City approve a partial exemption for seasonal employees working 25 weeks or less per year, with the Naval Park complying with all

other provisions of the law, including paying all other employees a living wage and submitting quarterly reports to the LWC.

### **Bisons**

- The City is currently negotiating a new lease with the Bisons for their stadium – another case where City pays utilities. They may have concluded; we will ask the Comptroller for a copy to review it for possible living wage applicability.
- Anna will send Sam copy of current/past lease.

### **City Workers**

- Anna has received a City report with current information about wages of city employees and will share it with LWC once it is properly formatted. It shows roughly 75 workers earning a living wage, including crossing guards and interns. No city employee is earning less than a living wage.