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**Mayor Lee and Supervisor Kim Broker Country's Most Progressive Minimum Wage Deal**

6/10/14 – San Francisco – Mayor Edwin Lee and Supervisor Jane Kim joined with a broad coalition of business and labor representatives Tuesday to announce the historic introduction of a ballot measure for the November 2014 election that would jettison the City's minimum wage to \$15.00 an hour.

The initiative would raise the minimum wage to \$12.25 starting on May Day 2015, the international day celebrating workers' struggles, and increase the minimum wage every July for the following three years, culminating in \$15 an hour in 2018, after which point the minimum wage would continue to be adjusted according to a consumer price index. The deal was brokered in the wee hours Tuesday morning with worker, non-profit and business advocates agreeing to a comprehensive package that includes an exception for government-supported employees. The ballot measure would also apply the minimum wage mandate to In-Home Support Service (IHSS) workers for the first time ever, an employee demographic that has historically been underpaid for critical human services work.

"San Francisco is once again setting the bar for workers' rights and driving equitable economic growth," said Supervisor Jane Kim. "Despite the successful minimum wage increase in 2003, San Francisco wages have not kept pace with the skyrocketing cost of living. We have struggled with an ever-widening income gap that has made it difficult for employees to live where they work and support their families. We are taking a stand for our City today by introducing a ballot measure that not only gets to \$15 an hour faster than anywhere else in the country, but also commits to a robust enforcement process. In a time of economic growth, no worker should be left without a fair and livable wage."

The City last voted to raise the minimum wage in 2003 with 60% of voters approving Proposition L and currently requires both non-profits and for-profit businesses to pay \$10.74 an hour. Seattle recently passed a minimum wage ordinance to get to \$15 an hour by 2021, but it also included provisions for tip credits and health insurance credits. Chicago recently passed a non-binding advisory measure that reflects the growing call for a \$15 minimum wage nationwide, but San Francisco will be the first city in the country to mandate workers be paid a minimum \$15 an hour wage within the next couple of years without carve-outs for tip credits or healthcare. It will be the most comprehensive and progressive minimum wage policy in the country, setting another historic benchmark for other cities to follow suit.

"The Campaign for a Fair Economy, a coalition of community and labor organizations, has worked hard to ensure that low-wage workers have a fighting chance to survive in San Francisco," said Shaw San Liu, the spokesperson for the Campaign for a Fair Economy. "This \$15 minimum wage measure will put millions of dollars into workers' wages, boosting local businesses and the economy. It is an important part of a larger agenda to close the income gap and ensure that working families can continue to live and thrive in our diverse city. We are looking forward to working with the City as we continue leading the nation on workers' rights and making sure that our new law is fully enforced."

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